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Near East & South Asia

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CONTENTS

NOTICE TO READERS: An * indicates material not disseminated in electronic form.

FRONT PAGE

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Arab-Israeli Talks

'Ashrawi—Peace 'Long, Accumulative Process' *[London MBC TV]* 2
Arab Delegations Hold Coordination Meeting *[Damascus Radio]* 2
Syria's al-'Allaf Comments *[Paris Radio Monte Carlo]* 2
Further on Syrian Delegate's Remarks *[Beirut Radio]* 3
Jordan's al-Majali Comments *[Amman Radio]* 3
Israelis Arrive With 'Concrete Proposals' *[Jerusalem Radio]* 4
PLO Welcomes Rome as Future Peace Talks Venue *[ANSA]* 4

Palestinian Affairs

Reportage on Upcoming Washington Peace Talks 5
Palestinian Delegation Departs Amman *[Amman Radio]* 5
'Arafat Adviser Sha'th En Route *[MENA]* 5
People's Party To Participate *[AL-RA'Y 25 Apr]* 5
Commentaries Assess Bilateral Peace Process 6
Positive Results Not Expected *[Algiers VOP]* 6
Agreement Not Anticipated *[Baghdad VOP]* 6
Delegation Adviser on Peace Talks, Confederation *[AL-DUSTUR 27 Apr]* 7
PLO, Jordan To Delay Confederation Announcement *[AL-QUDS 27 Apr]* 7
Statement Calls For End to Territories Infighting *[AL-TALI'AH 23 Apr]* 8
Palestinians Attain 'Nothing' in Multilateral Talks *[Algiers VOP]* 8

ARAB AFRICA

Algeria

Supreme Court To Rule on FIS Ban 29 Apr *[Algiers Radio]* 10
National Consultative Council Begins Session *[Algiers Radio]* 10
State Confiscates Paper Over Ghannouchi Interview *[Algiers Radio]* 10
Defense Minister Appoints Military Inspectors *[APS]* 10

Egypt

Mubarak Addresses Nation on Sinai Liberation Day *[Cairo Radio]* 10
RTU, Arabsat Sign Space Channel Agreement *[Cairo TV]* 11

Libya

'Tension' Suggests Leadership Split Over Lockerbie
[London THE DAILY TELEGRAPH 25 Apr] 12
Libyan 'Sources' Deny Disagreements *[MENA]* 12
Official Says Embargo Affecting Health Services *[JANA]* 13

Sudan

Abuja-Hosted Peace Conference Set for 24 May *[Omdurman Radio]* 13
SPLA Faction Amenable to Talks *[AFP]* 13
Armed Forces Win Victories in Mabyor Area *[SUNA]* 13
Recapture Mongalla Town *[SUNA]* 14
Government Accuses Red Cross of Supporting Rebels *[Bern International]* 14

ARABIAN PENINSULA

Kuwait

State Rejects Iraq's Charge of Airspace Violation *[KUNA]* 15
Russian Foreign Minister Kozyrev Begins Visit 15
Supports UN Resolutions on Iraq *[KUNA]* 15
Meets With Amir, Departs *[KUNA]* 15
'Brotherly Atmosphere' Noted in Syria Talks *[SPA]* 15

Oman

Syrian President al-Asad Concludes Visit *[OMAN DAILY OBSERVER 23 Apr]* 16

Saudi Arabia

Reportage on Visit of Russian Foreign Minister 16
Meets With Prince Sultan *[Riyadh Radio]* 16
Gives Yeltsin Message to King Fahd *[SPA]* 16

Republic of Yemen

Justice Minister Wounded in Assassination Attempt *[Sanaa Radio]* 16
Hospitalized, 'Not in Danger' *[AFP]* 17

IRAQ

Tariq 'Aziz Calls on Arab States To Lift Embargo *[INA]* 18
UN Ruling on Kuwaiti Border 'Implicitly' Rejected *[Paris Radio Monte Carlo]* 18
Opposition Group Criticizes Accord *[Voice of the Iraqi People]* 18
Saddam Inspects Domestically Built Tractor *[INA]* 18
Saddam Receives Birthday Message From King Husayn *[INA]* 19
Receives Message From King Hassan *[INA]* 19
Delegation Leaves on Visit to Damascus *[Paris Radio Monte Carlo]* 19
Opposition Reports Clashes in Southern Region 19
Claims Government Forces Repulsed *[Voice of Rebellious Iraq]* 19
Regime Said To Plan New Assault *[Voice of the People of Kurdistan]* 19
Regime Denies Attacks, Says UK 'Interfering' *[INA]* 20
SAIRI Urges Ghali To Send UN Team to South *[AFP]* 20
Official Source Criticizes Allied Forces in Turkey *[INA]* 20
Paper Urges Forces' Expulsion *[INA]* 20
Daily Warns Iran Against Domestic Interference *[INA]* 21
Information Minister Receives Azerbaijani Official *[INA]* 21
Ambassadorial Relations Established *[Baghdad Radio]* 21
Foreign Minister Expresses Support for Libya *[INA]* 22
Paper Criticizes Egyptian Role in Lockerbie Issue *[INA]* 22
Kurdish Commentary on Southern Civilians' Expulsion *[Iraqi Kurdistan Radio]* 22
'Fictitious' Pro-Saddam Kurdish Group Derided *[Iraqi Kurdistan Radio]* 23
'Udayy Elected Journalists Union Leader *[Baghdad Radio]* 23
Air Force Commander Notes Defensive Capabilities *[ALIF BA' 22 Apr]* 24
Minister Views Food Supplies in Autonomous Region *[Baghdad Radio]* 24

ISRAEL

Positions, Developments at Peace Talks Previewed 25
Syria To Be Offered Territories for Peace *[AL HAMISHMAR 26 Apr]* 25
Shamir Briefs Talks Delegates *[Jerusalem TV]* 25
Palestinian Delegate Barred *[Jerusalem Radio]* 26
Delegation Head on Upcoming Talks *[Jerusalem TV]* 26
Shamir Hopes To 'Attain Peace, Not Withdraw' *[Tel Aviv Radio]* 27
Damascus' New Policy on Travel of Jews Viewed *[Jerusalem Radio]* 27
Egypt Seizes Israeli Fishing Boat *[Jerusalem International]* 27
Boat on 'Private Sailing Trip' *[Jerusalem Radio]* 27
Yeltsin Military Adviser on 'Private' Visit *[YEDI'OT AHARONOT 26 Apr]* 27
El Al Purchase of Pratt-Whitney Engines Barred *[YEDI'OT AHARONOT 26 Apr]* 28
IDF Denies Forming New Outpost in South Lebanon *[HADASHOT 26 Apr]* 28
Probe—Soldiers Acted 'Properly' in Shootings *[Jerusalem Radio]* 28
IDF Units Kill 28 'Wanted Men' in 2 Months *[HADASHOT 26 Apr]* 28
Shoot-To-Kill Policy To 'Boomerang' *[HA'ARETZ 26 Apr]* 28
Upgraded Saar-4 Boats To Include Baraq Missiles *[AL HAMISHMAR 26 Apr]* 29
1 Killed, 20 Hurt as Troops Fire on Hamas Rally *[Jerusalem Radio]* 29

LEBANON

Commentary on U.S. 'Warning Signals' to Government *[Voice of the Oppressed]* 30
SLA's Lahd on Resistance, Elections, Syria *[Voice of the South]* 30
Al-Murr Confers With Syria's Khaddam, Others 25 Apr *[VOL]* 30
Israel Builds 'Huge' Military Post in Marj 'Uyun *[Voice of the Mountain]* 31
Villages Come Under Israeli Artillery Fire *[Beirut Radio]* 31
Warplanes Overfly South 26 Apr *[VOL]* 31
Planes Break Sound Barrier Over Beirut *[Beirut Radio]* 31
Mock Raids, Reinforcements Noted *[VOM]* 31

SYRIA

Jewish Leader Confirms Freedom To Leave *[Jerusalem International]* 32
Armenian President Arrives, Meets With al-Asad *[Damascus Radio]* 32
'Satisfaction' With Relations *[SANA]* 32
Dinner Speeches Exchanged *[Damascus Radio]* 32
Talks Resume 26 Apr *[Damascus Radio]* 33
SANA-ARMENPRES Agreement Signed *[SANA]* 33
Ter-Petrosyan Tours Aleppo *[SANA]* 33

SOUTH ASIA

Afghanistan

Reportage on Official Statements, Announcements 34
Mojaddedi Announces Council Taking Charge *[Islamabad Radio]* 34
Mojaddedi Announces General Amnesty *[THE NATION 25 Apr]* 34
Mas'ud Named Defense Minister in Council *[Kabul Radio]* 35
Wakil—Council 'Welcome' in Kabul *[Kabul Radio]* 35
Security Commission Appeals for Order *[Kabul Radio]* 36
Armed Forces Told To Back Mas'ud *[Kabul Radio]* 36
State Employees Asked To Return to Work *[Kabul Radio]* 36
Commission Warns of 'Evil Agitators' *[Kabul Radio]* 36
Citizens Told To Cooperate With Commission *[Kabul Radio]* 37
Security Commission on 'Foul Saboteurs' 37
Forces Urged To Stop Celebration Firing *[Kabul Radio]* 37
Mojahedin's Rabbani Addresses People *[Kabul Radio]* 38
Generals Removed; Changes in Army *[Islamabad THE NEWS 26 Apr]* 38

Pro-Hekmatyar Radio Reports, Hezb Statements 39
Ostad Farid Rejects Mas'ud Coalition *[Radio Message of Freedom]* 39
Pro-Hekmatyar Radio Reassures Kabul *[Radio Message of Freedom]* 39
Hezb-e Eslami on Leadership *[Radio Message of Freedom]* 39
Hekmatyar on Military Intentions, Mas'ud *[Islamabad THE MUSLIM 26 Apr]* 39
Hekmatyar Threatens Showra, Claims Victory *[Radio Message of Freedom]* 40
Hekmatyar Reported To Accept Pact *[AFP]* 40
Radio Criticizes BBC, VOA *[Radio Message of Freedom]* 40
Islamic Unity Party Rejects 51-Member Council *[IRNA]* 41
Hezb-e Wahdat-e Eslami Lauds Mojahedin Victory *[Tehran Radio]* 41
Mazari on Mojahedin Unity *[Tehran Radio]* 42
Mas'ud: Hekmatyar Will Be Driven From Kabul *[Tehran Radio]* 42
Accuses Hekmatyar of Staging Coup *[Islamabad THE MUSLIM 26 Apr]* 42
Chronology of Battles, Takeover of Kabul City 42
Jalalabad, Meymaneh, Paghman Captured *[Radio Message of Freedom]* 42
Mojahedin in Control of Radio, TV, Airport *[IRNA]* 43
Qandahar, Nimroz Under Mojahedin Control *[IRNA]* 43
Mas'ud Takes Charge; Planes Headed South *[AFP]* 43
Tehran Correspondent Reports on Fighting *[Tehran Radio]* 43
Details on Alliances, Fighting *[AFP]* 44
'Fierce Fighting' Breaks Out in Kabul *[AFP]* 45
Mojahedin Control Herat, Situation 'Calm' *[Tehran Radio]* 45
Tehran Updates Situation in Kabul *[IRNA]* 45
Cuban, Czechoslovak Embassies Attacked *[Tehran Radio]* 46
Envoys' Families Take Shelter *[AFP]* 46
Mojahedin Council Leaves for Kabul *[Islamabad Radio]* 47
Iranian Medical Aid Arrives in Herat *[IRNA]* 47
Iranian Envoy: Consensus Among Factions Needed *[Karachi DAWN 26 Apr]* 47

India

Reportage on Afghan Situation, Ghali Visit 48
Ghali 'Ready To Go To Kabul' *[Delhi Radio]* 48
Security Tightened at Kabul Embassy *[Delhi Radio]* 48
Fighting in Kabul; Situation Updated *[Delhi Radio]* 48
Swiss Authorities May 'Defreeze' Bofors Accounts *[Delhi Radio]* 49

Iran

Government Reacts to Afghanistan Developments 49
Security Council Meets 25 Apr *[Tehran TV]* 49
Mojahedin Power Accession Hailed *[Tehran TV]* 49
Adviser Arrives With Aid in Herat *[Tehran Radio]* 49
UN's Ghali Meets With Leaders on Afghan Events 49
Confers With Velayati *[Tehran Radio]* 49
Talks With Hashemi-Rafsanjani *[Tehran Radio]* 50
Refugees' Return Being Facilitated *[IRNA]* 50
Dailies on 'Civil War' in Kabul *[IRNA]* 51
Hezbollah Spokesman Denounces Hekmatyar *[IRNA]* 51
Clashes With Shiites in South Intensifying *[IRNA]* 51
SAIRI: 1,000 Army Troops Killed *[IRNA]* 51
Army Commander Said Killed *[IRNA]* 52
Reports on Ukrainian Delegation Visit, Agreements 52
Hashemi-Rafsanjani, Kravchuk Hold Talks *[Tehran Radio]* 52
Joint Gas Transfer Project Noted *[Tehran Radio]* 53
'Further Cooperation' Needed *[IRNA]* 53
Interest in Broader Ties Noted *[Tehran TV]* 53
Foreign Ministers Meet *[Tehran TV]* 53
Kravchuk Praises Visit, Departs *[Tehran TV]* 54
Hashemi-Rafsanjani Comments on Visit *[Tehran Radio]* 54

Velayati Writes ICO Regarding Bosnia-Hercegovina *[IRNA]* 54
ICO Urged To Organize Aid *[IRNA]* 55
Maritime Conference With Caspian Sea States Opens *[IRNA]* 55
'Victory 3' Naval Maneuvers in Strait of Hormuz *[IRNA]* 55
All Aboard Feared Dead in Air Crash Near Saveh *[IRNA]* 55

Pakistan

Leader Activities, Meetings on Afghanistan Events 56
Sharif Greets Mojahedin Leaders in Peshawar *[Pakistan TV]* 56
Islamabad 'In Constant Touch' *[Pakistan TV]* 56
Afghanistan Now 'Free' *[Pakistan TV]* 56
President on Afghanistan, Kashmir *[Islamabad Radio]* 56
'Full Cooperation' With Council *[Pakistan TV]* 57
Future Policy Toward Afghanistan Outlined *[Islamabad Radio]* 57
Sharif, UN's Ghali Confer on Afghanistan, Kashmir *[Islamabad Radio]* 57
Issue Statements *[Islamabad International]* 58
Sharif, Saudi Prince Turki Discuss Afghanistan *[Islamabad Radio]* 58
UN's Ghali Urges Restraint in Afghanistan *[Pakistan TV]* 58

Arab-Israeli Talks

The Arab delegations met to coordinate their positions on the eve of the Washington peace talks, scheduled to begin on 27 April, Damascus radio noted. Meanwhile, Elyaqim Rubinstein, head of the Israeli team that will negotiate with the Jordanian-Palestinian delegation, said on arrival in Washington that Israel will present "concrete proposals" during the four-day talks, Jerusalem radio reported.

Israel

During the talks in Washington Israel plans to offer Syria "territories as a function of peace," AL HAMISHMAR disclosed. A senior source in the prime minister's office stated that "the greater Syria's willingness to give Israel more true peace, the more territory Israel will be willing to give Syria," according to the paper. In another development, a Jerusalem radio commentary hailed the Syrian Government's reported decision to allow its Jewish citizens to travel abroad. Meanwhile, special undercover squads have killed 28 Palestinians in the past two months since the IDF issued new regulations allowing troops to kill any armed Arab, HADASHOT reported. Commenting on the shoot-to-kill policy, HA'ARETZ warned that "people who have nothing to anticipate other than being killed in an ambush by Duvdevan troops will move on to desperate actions."

Syria

The head of the Syrian Jewish community has said he has received a "positive" verbal response from the government on a request to allow Jewish families to leave the country. In a telephone conversation with a Jerusalem international radio correspondent, Rabbi Albert Ibrahim Hamra says he expects written confirmation from the Damascus authorities within four to five days.

Yemen

The justice minister was hospitalized following an assassination attempt in Sanaa on 26 April, Sanaa radio reported. An unknown number of gunmen reportedly opened fire on the minister, his chauffer, and bodyguard after forcing them out of their vehicle, AFP added. The minister's life was not in danger, according to hospital sources cited by the news agency.

Iraq

In a speech to the General Secretariat of the Arab Popular Forces conference in Baghdad, Tariq 'Aziz called on Arab states to lift the embargo on Baghdad because it "is no longer justified," INA reported. Meanwhile, 'Aziz also "implicitly rejected" a resolution adopted by a UN committee demarcating the Iraqi-Kuwaiti border because this measure "is not based on any legal documents," Paris Radio Monte Carlo stated.

Iran

The Afghan Hezbollah in Tehran accused Golboddin Hekmatyar of being "an operative of the United States in Afghanistan" and vowed that they would fight the Hezb-e Eslami leader "to the end," according to IRNA.

Arab-Israeli Talks

'Ashrawi—Peace 'Long, Accumulative Process'

NC2604193792 London MBC Television in Arabic 1800 GMT 26 Apr 92

[Interview with Hanan 'Ashrawi, spokeswoman for the Palestinian delegation to the peace talks, by MBC correspondent Mahir Shalabi; date and place not given—recorded]

[Text] ['Ashrawi] The past period was basically one of exploration. It was a period to define the positions and points of departure and explore the capabilities, tactics, and strategies of the other side. We have not achieved anything tangible at the negotiating table with respect to Israeli practices, settlement activity, or even the subjects of negotiation. Primarily, we have imposed Palestinian participation on an independent and national basis and on equal footing. Thus, we defined the Palestinian position by using the Palestinian perspective, terminology, and principles as a basis for the negotiations. In addition, the past period was one of presenting the Palestinian position and political program at the international level to drum up support for it and explain its fundamental points. We believe that the Palestinian accomplishments were political and they exist on several levels, but they are abstract and it is difficult to speculate if they will be put into practice. However, this is a long and accumulative process and we expect that in each round we will be able to accumulate these accomplishments, and consequently, put pressure on Israel so that it might comply with the requirements of this process and change its practices on the ground.

[Shalabi] Do you believe this round of negotiations will witness a positive change and progress in the talks?

['Ashrawi] It is hard to expect progress in the coming round, but we do not rule it out entirely. The next round comes in the shadow of Israeli elections. In this atmosphere, Israel is exercising its provocative policy in a calculated manner, is deliberately distorting the Palestinian stand, and is launching a propaganda, and even a psychological, campaign against the Palestinian side. We also believe that Israel will try to neutralize, or circumvent, the Palestinian stand by advancing some secondary issues so that it might appear worldwide as if it were dealing positively with the peace process, while in substance and in reality it will not be making any concessions or constructive stands. In addition, I expect Israel to escalate the oppressive campaign and its attack against the Palestinian political program and even individuals, delegation members, and active political powers and to attempt to divide Palestinian ranks.

Arab Delegations Hold Coordination Meeting

JN2704062792 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0415 GMT 27 Apr 92

[Text] Washington—Arab delegations to the peace talks met last night at the Palestinian delegation's place of residence to coordinate positions on the eve of the fifth round of talks, which is scheduled to begin today.

Following the meeting, Muwaffaq al-'Allaf, head of the Syrian Arab delegation, said that it has become customary to hold such coordination meetings on the eve of each round of talks. He said that during the meeting, they reviewed what was approved at the Beirut meeting, which was held at the beginning of this month and was attended by the foreign ministers of Syria, Lebanon, and Jordan, as well as the head of the PLO Political Department, particularly with regard to holding one session of talks daily unless the circumstances of the talks dictate otherwise. Al-'Allaf added that it was also agreed that the Arab parties express their readiness to hold the fifth round of talks from 27 April to 5 May. He also said that it was agreed to try to push the negotiations along the various paths toward discussion of substantial issues, and to thwart Israel's continued efforts to limit the talks to procedural issues.

Arab delegations will, as usual, hold coordination meetings throughout the duration of this round of talks. The next coordination meeting is expected to take place at the Syrian Arab delegation's place of residence later this week.

Syria's al-'Allaf Comments

JN2704070692 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 0510 GMT 27 Apr 92

[Hisham Milhim dispatch from Washington]

[Excerpts] The fifth round of talks between the Arabs and Israel will begin at 1000 Washington time today in the midst of Arab and U.S. expectations that these talks will be short, and will produce modest and very limited results. [passage ommited]

The heads of the Arab delegations met yesterday evening to review the situation, exchange viewpoints, and attempt to coordinate stands. There is an Arab consensus to reject the convocation of the sixth round scheduled to be held in Rome before the Israeli elections in June this year if the current round fails to achieve the expected results. In an interview with Radio Monte Carlo, the head of the Syrian delegation Dr. Muwaffaq al-'Allaf expressed this stand when he said:

[Begin recording] The Israeli tactic or plan is not to allow these rounds to achieve any real progress. This has been Israel's course since the Madrid conference. This course has become more obvious with the approach of the Israeli elections. We believe that if, in this round that is taking place two months before the Israeli elections, we do not achieve satisfactory results, then it is difficult to see how such results would be achieved one, or two weeks before the elections. It is not the number of sessions that is important, or how frequently they are held, what is important is the progress that is achieved

during these sessions. It is obvious now that the Israeli side is not much interested in achieving such progress. [end recording]

Regarding the U.S. insistence not to actively intervene in the negotiations to push them forward as the Arab parties want, al- 'Allaf said:

[Begin recording] During previous contacts, we have learned from the U.S. side that on the contrary it is committed to its role as sponsor of the conference and as a driving force in the peace process. Since we all do not expect much good to come from this round of talks in view of the Israeli elections, perhaps the sponsor of the conference might also use the Israeli elections as an excuse for not exercising all the required pressure or influence. However, it is worth mentioning that the Arab parties are counting on a promise by the sponsor of the conference to intervene when he believes the peace process is in danger of collapse. Fortunately, this has not happened, as yet, and we hope it will not. There are recurrent affirmations that the peace

Further on Syrian Delegate's Remarks

NC2704093792 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0530 GMT 27 Apr 92

[Text] The fifth round of bilateral peace talks will begin in Washington today. The Arab delegations will meet this evening to coordinate their stands.

Ambassador Suhayl Shammas, Foreign Ministry secretary general and head of the Lebanese delegation to the peace negotiations, arrived in Washington at 1845 yesterday and was met by members of the Lebanese negotiating team.

Reports indicate that the Lebanese delegation will hold contacts with the U.S. Administration on the sidelines of the talks. The talks will deal with the situation in the south in light of the clear Israeli escalations in the area.

The Arab delegations held a coordination meeting at the headquarters of the Palestinian delegation yesterday evening.

After the meeting, Muwaffaq al-'Allaf, head of the Syrian delegation, said that it has become routine for the delegations to met on the eve of every round of talks. During the meeting, he said, the teams reviewed the results of the meeting held in Beirut earlier this month among the Syrian, Lebanese, and Jordanian foreign ministers, and the chief of the PLO's political department. These results include the decision to hold only one session of talks daily unless circumstances require another one. Al-'Allaf added that the parties all agreed to demonstrate a willingness to continue the fifth round of talks from 27 April to 5 May provided that substantive issues are discussed and that Israel's continuing attempts to restrict the talks to formal aspects are frustrated.

In addition to Ambassador Shammas, the Lebanese delegation comprises Ambassadors Ja'far Mu'awiyah, Samir Mubarak, and Jihad Murtada, Colonel Shafiq Mahran, and Major Riyad Shayya.

Syrian Chief Delegate Muwaffaq Al-'Allaf said that the proximity of the Israeli elections should not be an excuse for Israeli intransigence. He said he hopes the fifth round of negotiations will be more productive than the previous rounds.

Upon her arrival in Washington, Palestinian delegation spokeswoman Hanan 'Ashrawi said she saw no harm in transferring the negotiations to Rome. She said that the Palestinians are prepared to move to any neutral country to continue the talks.

Jordan's al-Majali Comments

JN2704074692 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 0400 GMT 27 Apr 92

[Muhammad al-Sharif dispatch from Washington]

[Text] During the past hours and since the Arab delegations' arrival to participate in the Arab-Israeli bilateral peace talks, Washington has witnessed intensive contacts and consultations on issues to be discussed in the fifth round of talks. One of the most significant contacts was the Arab delegations' meeting at the Palestinian delegation's headquarters yesterday at 1730 Washington local time, 1230 after midnight Jordan local time, a meeting which continued until dawn today.

The meeting was chaired by the chief delegates; Jordan's delegation head Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali, Palestinian delegation head Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, Syrian delegation head Dr. Muwaffaq al-'Allaf, and Lebanese delegation head Suhayl Shammas.

Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali said that the meeting evaluated the results of the previous rounds, discussed all ideas and issues which will be presented in the new round, and discussed the next stage of talks to be held in Rome.

In statements to the Jordanian media mission and reporters, Dr. al-Majali said:

[Begin al-Majali recording] It is customary for the Arab delegations to the bilateral talks to meet one day before the start of the talks to review and evaluate what was achieved previously and to prepare for what might take place during the talks. Arab coordination was at its highest level, as it was in Washington.

Good coordination and open-mindedness prevail. The discussions were extremely frank and assessed what had been achieved so far as well as what we have to do in the future. There will be a meeting halfway through this round to evaluate the results of the next few days and there will be another at the end of the round for assessment purposes.

At the foreign ministers' conference in Beirut, the Arabs agreed to meet in Washington to show the world, the U.S., and Israeli public opinion that the Arabs are

serious in every sense of the word about peace, and to make the Israelis realize that the Arabs' participation is not a tactic, and that they are serious about the peace process. Therefore, we came this time in order to build confidence and demonstrtate that we are serious about peace. [end recording]

In addition to this comprehensive coordination meeting, other meetings were held during the past hours, especially among the coordination committees to discuss all issues in detail.

The Jordanian delegation will hold its first session with the Israeli delegation at 1600 Washington local time, 2300 Jordan local time. This will be preceded by a meeting between the Palestinian and Israeli delegations at 0900 Washington local time, 1600 Jordan local time, in addition to the Syrian-Israeli and Lebanese-Israeli meetings.

Israelis Arrive With 'Concrete Proposals'

TA2704044892 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0400 GMT 27 Apr 92

[Excerpt] The fifth round of bilateral peace talks between Israel and the Arabs opens today at the State Department in Washington. Cabinet Secretary Elyaqim Rubinstein, who heads the team negotiating with the Jordanian-Palestinian delegation, said on arrival that Israel will present concrete proposals, and he expressed the hope that progress will be achieved in the four days of talks. Connie Lon from Washington:

The Middle East peace talks resume again in Washington. This could be the final round held here; the next session will take place in Rome. As the negotiators arrived, they began to stake out their positions. Israeli negotiator Eli Rubinstein said he does not believe the upcoming Israeli elections will have an adverse effect on the talks.

[Begin Rubinstein recording] I think that the elections, while they have an atmospheric influence, so to speak, shouldn't be a real point in the negotiations themselves. This is a part of the democratic process in our country. It has nothing to do with the negotiating work, and, in effect, there is so much to be done in the negotiations in any case and in any outcome of any elections, it shouldn't be a factor. [end recording] [passage omitted]

PLO Welcomes Rome as Future Peace Talks Venue

AU2604133592 Rome ANSA in English 0844 GMT 24 Apr 92

[Text] (ANSA) Amman, April 23—Rome is the (?"final) choice" of venue for the bilateral [words indistinct] its Arab neighbours at the Middle East conference and "any future change will be towards Washington, not the Middle East," the head of the Palestinian Liberation Organisation's information division Yasir 'Abd Rabbuh said here today.

The sixth round of the talks is scheduled to be held in Rome, probably not until after the Israeli elections on June 23. On Monday, the fifth round starts in Washington, the venue hitherto for Israel's talks with the Syrians, Lebanese, Jordanians and Palestinians.

According to the PLO spokesman, the organisation sees Rome as a "place adapted for continuing the negotiations" because, among other things, "Italy is a friend."

The Arab parties to the talks opposed an Israeli proposal to move the talks to a Middle Eastern venue, arguing that Tel Aviv's aim was to convince Mideastern public opinion of a de facto Arab recognition for Israel before the negotiations are completed, something that still seems remote.

The peace conference opened in Madrid for a brief plenary session on October 30. It then shifted to Washington for bilateral talks between Israel and the Arab delegations. The third multilateral phase primarily covering regional cooperation issues convened in Moscow on January 26-27.

The invitations sent by the U.S. (?and then) Soviet co-chair went to Israel, Syria, Egypt, Lebanon and Jordan with the Palestinians forming part of the Jordanian delegation to overcome Israeli objections to negotiating with them.

The European Community is represented by its presidency and the UN secretary-general by an observer. In Moscow, the parties agreed to set up a series of working committees on issues ranging from arms control and water sharing to economic cooperation and the Palestinian refugees. These negotiations are (?to) start in Washington, Tokyo, Vienna, Brussels and Ottawa on staggered opening dates in mid-May.

The bilateral talks are the forum in which the problems forming the crux of the Middle Eastern crisis are on the agenda, from Southern Lebanon and the Golan Heights to East Jerusalem and the central issue of Palestinian aspirations to autonomy and independence.

Reports that the largely deadlocked negotiations could move to another venue started circulating early in March, and Rome was one of the first cities to be mentioned.

(?This time) the Palestinians said they wanted to talk in a "neutral" city, and the Israelis said they would like the negotiations to be held nearer home because contacts with the respective governments would be easier.

The Palestinians ruled out anywhere in the Middle East but said that apart from Rome, they could consider Spain, Portugal, Sweden, Britain, or France.

Palestinian Affairs

Reportage on Upcoming Washington Peace Talks

Palestinian Delegation Departs Amman

JN2504153392 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 25 Apr 92

[Text] Today at noon the Palestinian delegation to the peace talks left Amman for Washington to participate in the fifth round of talks set to open there on Monday.

In a statement to the press just before leaving, Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi said that in the fourth round the Palestinian delegation presented Palestinian views on the transition period, especially concerning the powers and authority of the interim government. The Israeli delegation, however, rejected the Palestinian viewpoint and presented its own, which was at odds with the terms of reference for the peace process. He stated that the Palestinian delegation rejected the Israeli viewpoint, which would only perpetuate and tighten the grip of occupation.

For her part, delegation spokeswoman Hanan 'Ashrawi said in a press statement that Israel is not at all concerned with making progress in the peace process. She said, however, that the Palestinian delegation will continue its serious moves toward peace and will present its national program about all topics of discussion freely, responsibly, and positively.

Dr. 'Ashrawi described the results achieved by the Palestinians during the peace process as positive on the abstract political level but difficult to translate into reality, even though this will eventually be done. She praised the continuing Jordanian-Palestinian coordination and said that the Jordanian Government is very committed to coordinating with the Palestinian delegation and that it is eager to deepen and continue this coordination. Dr. 'Ashrawi denounced the oppressive Israeli measures that accompany and precede every round of negotiations.

'Arafat Adviser Sha'th En Route

NC2504113792 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1114 GMT 25 Apr 92

[Text] Cairo, 25 Apr (MENA)—Dr. Nabil Sha'th, political adviser to Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat, left Cairo for Washington today for a two-week stay.

Before his departure Sha'th said that he will lead the Palestinian advisory team during the fifth round of Middle East negotiations due to begin in Washington on Monday.

He added that during this round of talks the Palestinians will focus on discussing ways of establishing a transitional Palestinian government in accordance with a plan which they had submitted earlier. They also will raise the issue of halting Israel's settlement program in the occupied Arab territories, which is the primary obstacle to peace.

Sha'th said that the Palestinians do not expect to make any progress during this round of negotiations, which is expected to last until 5 May, because the Israelis are placing numerous obstacles in the way of the peace process.

People's Party To Participate

JN2504093292 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 25 Apr 92 p 32

[By 'Awdah 'Awdah]

[Text] Amman—The Palestinian People's Party [formerly the Palestinian Communist Party] has decided to end its objections to participating in the upcoming fifth round of peace talks with Israel to be held in Washington on 27 April.

Dr. Ghassan al-Khatib, a Palestinian People's Party representative in the Palestinian delegation, told AL-RA'Y that he will leave for Washington today, Saturday, with Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, head of the Palestinian negotiating delegation; Dr. Hanan 'Ashrawi, the Palestinian delegation's media spokeswoman; and Dr. Sa'ib 'Urayqat, Dr. Mamduh al-'Akir, and Dr. Nabil Qays, members of the Palestinian delegation.

Al-Khatib said that Dr. Samir 'Abdallah, the other Palestinian People's Party representative in the Palestinian delegation, left for Washington yesterday with a number of Palestinian delegation members and administrative officials.

Dr. al-Khatib emphasized that the broad outlines of the disputed issues have been settled upon with his colleagues in the Palestinian delegation. He added: We have agreed with our allies in the Palestinian delegation to keep the issues of settlements and the violation of Palestinian human rights the focus of the Palestinian negotiating strategy in the upcoming round. He described the atmosphere within the Palestinian delegation as good, affirming that the delegation is more united than ever before.

The Palestinian People's Party announced on 14 April that it would suspend its participation in the fifth round of peace talks in Washington. The party also threatened to withdraw from the talks if the Palestinian leadership in Tunis did not respond to its conditions, namely adhering to the issue of stopping all kinds of Israeli settlements in the occupied Arab territories as a basic and central demand and developing the Palestinian delegation's political consultative body [al-marji'iyah al-siyasiyah] to become more collective and democratic.

Commentaries Assess Bilateral Peace Process

Positive Results Not Expected

LD2604210992 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 26 Apr 92

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] Brothers: The fifth round of bilateral talks between the Arab and Israeli delegations will be resumed tomorrow, Monday, in Washington. The expectations of observers and analysts is that this round will not result in any positive results due to the fact that the Israeli Likud delegation will persevere in its hard-line positions and to the idea of self-rule, which it presented to the Palestinian delegation at the fourth round, which means that Israel wants peace for peace, not peace for land.

Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir spelled out the headlines of the Israeli premise during the fifth round of talks with the Arab delegations. He said last Wednesday on Israeli radio that the Arabs who are negotiating with Israel know very well that we will never return the occupied territories, and that Judea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip are lands which will remain under Israeli control forever. These sayings and statements highlight a number of facts and fundamentals matters through which it is possible to reach a conclusion about the Israeli stand and that of its negotiating delegation to the fifth round of talks.

The Israeli delegation will try to turn the bilateral talks with the Palestinian and Arab delegations into an election campaign in favor of the Likud Party and to show the Likud Party, which monopolizes and holds the reigns of the current Israeli government, to be the strongest party and the party most capable of safeguarding the land of Israel. This is a truth that cannot be ignored. The composition of the Israeli delegation, led by Elyakim Rubinstein, is a delegation whose members are all from the Likud Party, even from the hard-liners and the fanatical supporters of the whole land of Israel, and Rubinstein is among the graduates of the religious schools and colleges which have a biblical hard-line philosophy.

In his rounds and talks Rubinstein receives instructions and directives from Yitzhaq Shamir, the prime minister of Israel and the head of the Likud Party. Israeli Defense Minister Moshe Arens stated before the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Security Committee on 14 April that the intention is being reiterated of appointing committees which would run the affairs of the municipalities in the occupied territories in preparation for holding elections for the municipalities, and that Hebron will be the first town in which municipal elections will be held. The PLO has categorically rejected this idea, and the PLO spokesmen described the Israeli proposal as an Israeli plot to avoid the Palestinian proposals and that this Israeli proposal seeks to divert the Palestinian people and international public opinion from discussing substantive issues and matters. The PLO demands that general elections in the occupied territories be organized under the supervision of the United Nations.

During the fourth round of bilateral talks which ended on 4 March the Palestinian delegation presented a Palestinian plan which was totally rejected by Israel. Among its clauses were the need to hold general elections in the occupied territories under the auspices of the United Nations, and the formation of a government to manage affairs in the occupied territories following the withdrawal of the Israeli army from the populated areas.

During the talks this Monday in Washington the Israeli delegation may propose to the Palestinian delegation the idea of municipal elections in the occupied territories. The negotiating Palestinian delegation will be ready with its reply to this proposal.

It only remains to be noted that the Israeli elections will be held on 23 June of this year and that the Likud will spare no efforts to defeat the Labor Party, the stronger rival, in order to reap the tens of thousands of votes of Israeli extremists and settlers.

Agreement Not Anticipated

JN2604195192 Baghdad Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1500 GMT 26 Apr 92

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] Dear brothers: Sources close to the Palestinian delegation to the Washington talks expected, even prior to the arrival of any delegation member in the United States, that the negotiators will not reach agreement. For his part, Faysal al-Husayni cast doubts on achieving any progress in the fifth round of talks, noting that he cannot expect progress because the Zionist Government has not shown any willingness to make concessions before elections. He added: We are going to Washington to initiate things and discuss our differences of opinion.

We, as fair-minded observers who are following developments, do not expect these meetings to produce any results. The Zionist enemy is clinging to its intransigence. Shamir also forestalled developments when he announced that Arab negotiators were well aware that the Zionist entity would maintain its control over the West Bank and Gaza Strip and that it would never withdraw from them. So, why make the trip in the first place? Why the negotiations? Why then are time and effort being wasted? Why this attempt to plant false hopes in the Arabs' hearts and minds? Why are we fooling ourselves? Why do we not tell the whole truth to the Palestinian, Arab, and world public? Why do we not withdraw from a travesty which we have come to know to be a travesty—that is, if we indeed were not aware of the whole thing being a travesty from the outset? Why cannot we say that the whole world is currently asked to shoulder its responsibilities and that the choice it has is between the continued pursuit of double standards or the declaration of enmity on our part?

If we were to opt for such a course we would then expose the enemy, Americans and Zionists alike, and show the entire world the insincerity and hypocrisy of the treasonous rulers who have dragged our homeland to a Zionist-U.S. slaughterhouse prepared in advance for us and who have asked us to endorse our own butchering.

Delegation Adviser on Peace Talks, Confederation

JN2704082792 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 27 Apr 92 pp 28, 20

[By Nabil Ghazzawi]

[Text] Faysal al-Husayni, head of the Advisory Council of the Palestinian delegation to the bilateral Arab-Israeli peace talks, has declared that the Palestinians are determined to set things right in the fifth round of negotiations scheduled to begin in the U.S. capital, and to unambiguously emphasize that settlement building and related Israeli measures will only lead to the destruction of the peace process.

In an interview with AL-DUSTUR before leaving Amman for Arab Jerusalem yesterday, al-Husayni explained that the Palestinian delegation has reviewed all issues that will be raised during the multilateral negotiations which are expected to begin soon in Brussels, Lisbon, Washington, Tokyo, and Ottawa. He noted that Palestinian participation in four committees has been approved, while participation in the armament and security committee is still under consideration.

He explained that Palestinians from outside the occupied territories will be given the opportunity to participate in the refugees and economic affairs committees. He added: We are eager to have this applied to other committees.

Responding to a question on the extent of cooperation and coordination between the Jordanian and Palestinian sides, al-Husayni said that cooperation between the two delegations is taking place through the joint Palestinian-Jordanian delegation. He attributed the current Israeli intransigence in the bilateral talks to the upcoming Israeli elections and noted that this requires urgent coordination. He explained that the upcoming stage, be it at the bilateral or multilateral negotiations, requires further coordination and study because there will be numerous topics and options. Consequently, he added, there is a new stage ahead of us in which Palestinian-Jordanian and Arab coordination will be extremely important. He affirmed that any deficiency in coordination will gravely harm us.

On the question of a Jordanian-Palestinian confederation, al-Husayni affirmed that confederation is a Palestinian as well as a Jordanian necessity. He noted, however, that we are speaking about a confederation between two independent entities. Thus, such a confederation will not take place before Palestinian independence. He indicated that it is extremely important that a comprehensive and accurate concept of the nature and structure of this confederation, as well as the rights and duties of each party, be drawn up now.

He stated that it is better that a confederation plan be set up now rather than waiting until the last moment. Therefore, he said, I propose that a discussion be held on the form, not implementation, of the expected confederation. He explained that nobody objects to this idea as a future solution.

Asked whether the upcoming Israeli elections will affect the nature of Arab-Israeli negotiations, al-Husayni said that he does not believe they will. He affirmed that the Likud approach is an ideological one while the Alignment approach is a security one. Thus, he said, tactics and negotiations will be different.

As for Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir's recent statements on not giving up the occupied territories, al-Husayni described these statements as new obstacles to the peace process. He said, however, that these statements will not affect us, especially because former Israeli Prime Minister Menahem Begin had frequently declared that he would not withdraw from Arab Sinai. However, he eventually withdrew from it.

On Israeli Labor Party leader Yitzhaq Rabin's recent remarks on leasing important hills of strategic importance in the occupied Golan Heights from the Syrian Government should Israel withdraw from them, al-Husayni said that it is known that the Alignment's approach focuses on security. Therefore, it is possible to see various forms of discussions differing from the Israeli ideological approach. However, he affirmed, we eventually deal with deeds and not words.

On the working papers and proposals that the Palestinian negotiating delegation will present during the fifth round of talks with the Israelis, al-Husayni explained that the Palestinian side has presented its papers and all that is required, and that we want further clarification of Israel's stand on these papers.

Responding to a question on whether in the next stage the Palestinians will demand self-rule or an independent state, al-Husayni said: We are talking about self-government for the current stage through which authority will be transferred from the Israelis to the Palestinians so as to eventually attain sovereignty and an independent Palestinian state.

PLO, Jordan To Delay Confederation Announcement

TA2704123492 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 27 Apr 92 p 1

[By AL-QUDS special correspondent]

[Excerpt] Cairo—AL-QUDS has learned that Jordan and the PLO have agreed to postpone the announcement on the establishment of a confederation between them until the Arab-Israeli talks reach agreement on Palestinian self-rule.

The delay in the announcement is due to differences which have broken out between Palestinian factions over the rules of announcing the confederation at the present time before specific arrangements are made for the interim period, which might enlarge the Jordanian role at the expense of the Palestinian role. [passage omitted]

Statement Calls For End to Territories Infighting

TA2704094792 Jerusalem AL-TALI'AH in Arabic 23 Apr 92 pp 1, 11

[Text] Fatah and the Palestinian People's Party in the Gaza Strip have issued a joint statement calling for increased unified and democratic action among all Palestinian factions regardless of their political, intellectual, and ideological affiliations.

This statement was issued as a result of some problems and infighting which have arisen recently in the occupied territories.

The statement emphasizes that the current plight of the intifadah requires the adoption of practical measures to regain the confidence of the masses. These measures are summed up as follows:

— Resolving problems between organizations by democratic means and avoiding manifestations of intimidation and bullying.
—Avoiding acts of murder whenever possible and striving to reach a national consensus in dealing with issues of grave dimensions and repercussions.
—Concentrating on holding strikes on the ninth of each month.
—Combating the trend of factionalism and fanaticism.
—Resisting the phenomenon of collecting contributions through intimidation, terrorism, and extortion, and confronting anyone who attempts to use this method.

The statement, which was widely distributed in the Gaza Strip, calls on all sincere Palestinian people to reinforce a democratic and unified approach on the basis of trust, friendship, and love among the sons of the one people and one goal.

Palestinians Attain 'Nothing' in Multilateral Talks

LD2404114892 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1800 GMT 23 Apr 92

[Station commentary]

[Excerpts] Following the (?conclusion) of the proceedings of the multilateral conference in Moscow, the work which constitutes the beginning of the three axes, or of the three stages, as the United States called them, had been completed: the [word indistinct] Madrid conference, then the phase of bilateral talks in Washington, then the multilateral phase. Irrespective of the precision of the naming and its significance, the world and the Arabs stood after completing the three beginnings opposite the scales of what has so far been achieved. [sentence as heard].

The United States assumes in this initial phase that it is a phase for generating an atmosphere of trust and for creating its conditions. The phase of an atmosphere of trust requires reciprocal entitlement and parallel moves—at least the issue of stopping settlements is an issue which is taken for granted everywhere in the world against the Zionist position, and against the continuous and steady daily practices in this sphere.

Despite the U.S. understanding of the answer to the question what has been achieved so far, and what has not been achieved, we find that the equation has clear significations and indications. If all the peace process follows this pattern, then the results become even clearer, and so are the intentions and actions.

We have no doubt that both the United States and the Israeli entity are trying to gain time, perhaps each in its own way, with some differences. But the essence of the position is one, i.e. utilizing time for the sake of causing changes which weaken the Arab position. This fact, which is reflected in a course of evasion and procrastination, and which in our [word indistinct] course is called the peace process and its stages, is not the fact that we are examining at this moment; the matter goes far beyond that because we are in front of revealing the account. What have the Arabs and Palestinian obtained up to this point? And what has the Zionist entity obtained? [Sentence indistinct]. These are the scales. Have the Arabs obtained a span of the hand of land, or the economy, or interest, or stability, or development, or any other direct or indirect occasion which is due or must be due? Have the Arabs received a mere promise for [the return of] land?

None of this has been achieved. All that has been achieved is air in air, vacuum in vacuum, maneuver followed by maneuver, and waiting followed by waiting. Have the Palestinians gotten by the U.S. (?expression) a mere recognition of any of their rights, or limiting settlement, or recognizing their unity, or in the (?nationality) of a people which has national rights, or even anything? The answer is: The Palestinians have also found themselves in the U.S. expression of holding wind [obtaining nothing] until this moment. In fact, the formula of their theoretical presence, which was given to them at the beginning of the (?current) new world order, is being withdrawn. It is their right to have a state in accordance with international legitimacy. [passage omitted]

The United States attempted before the multilateral [phase] to throw a sheet of paper to the Palestinian side to run behind it so as to be considered a gain, and it is a sheet of paper concerning the confirmation of the refugee issue in the multilateral committees. This sheet has been deliberately dropped for the sake of fighting for it, so that it becomes the gain which the Palestinian side achieves and which justifies its attendance and participation, which constitute a cover for others' attendance, which exclude the Palestinian diaspora, and which put an end to the PLO forever.

The United States participated in this veto, not only by accepting it but also by formulating the tactics which led to it. No doubt the Zionist entity is working hard to avoid offering anything in return while bargaining with all the Jewish characteristics that it has. [passage omitted]

Perhaps this game is part of the policy of evasion which is not concealed from the U.S. Administration which Shamir was and is still following, and which the international conditions enable and help him to follow.

The United States forced the Arab sides which attended to attend in one way or another to start this celebration festival, and it is well aware that the whole issue is mere words. But in the midst of these mere words, it has dropped some of the important forbidden things and cut a new distance in the road of this project. In return, the Arab position showed weakness and division in Moscow in light of the differences between the stands of its sides, because the absence of some did not move or affect the others. [passage omitted]

More than that, Shamir, by means of this game, is attempting to manipulate the date of the U.S. elections and their conditions so as to become a justification for him and for the U.S Administration to restrict any possible concession to the narrowest possible scope. The source of this division is the complete drifting behind the United States and the inability even to discuss [words indistinct] this weakness, this method, and what happened so far, although [words indistinct].

As for us in the Palestinian revolution, the choice before us is to devote our maximum efforts to return to gather the papers through intensifying the effectiveness of struggle and resistance, arranging our own situation, and regathering the Arab dossiers, because the actual balance of power on the ground is the one that produces results.

Up to this point the Arab and Palestinian side have achieved nothing except verbal achievements, and until now, and in Moscow, the Zionist entity has achieved a lot, and this is an example of what is called the peace process, which is directed by the United States, which is more concerned about creating a new regional organization which is dominated by the United States, and under which the gains are made by the Zionist entity. This forms a clear reflection of the new world order with all that it entails. This formula, and this sample of the results, foretell nothing but getting out [of the talks] and gripping the wind.

Algeria

Supreme Court To Rule on FIS Ban 29 Apr

LD2604184792 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 26 Apr 92

[Text] The Supreme Court this afternoon concluded its deliberations on the appeal made by lawyers for the Islamic Salvation Front [FIS] concerning the decision of the Algiers Court Administrative Chamber to dissolve this party and suspend its activity.

Mohsen Slimani, national radio correspondent at the Supreme Court, said that the court's final verdict will be announced at a special hearing on Wednesday, 29 April.

National Consultative Council Begins Session

LD2504125792 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 25 Apr 92

[Text] As was scheduled, the members of the National Consultative Council today began their first meeting in a closed session at the headquarters of the People's National Assembly.

The 60 members of this Consultative Council will agree on the internal statutes and the election of a council chairman, who could be either Mr. Redha Malek or Mr. Said Maazouzi, who were former ministers during the rule of late President Houari Boumediene.

State Confiscates Paper Over Ghannouchi Interview

LD2604134792 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 26 Apr 92

[Text] It was learned from reliable sources that today's issue of the AL-CHA'B newspaper was seized last night by court order while it was being printed. The AL-CHA'B daily said in yesterday's issue that it will publish an interview with Rached Ghannouchi, the leader of the outlawed Tunisian al-Nahdah party and who opposes the Tunisian regime and is currently in exile. The main topic of the interview is the circumstances of his departure from Algeria and his views on the democratic process.

The same sources explained that the authorities consider the interview itself to be harmful to public order and interference in Algeria's domestic affairs.

Defense Minister Appoints Military Inspectors

LD2404105592 Algiers APS in English 1028 GMT 23 Apr 92

[Text] Algiers, 23/04/92 (APS)—The Major-General Khaled Nezzar, national defence minister, chaired yesterday here the ceremony of appointments of Generals Tayeb Derradji, Yahia Rahal and Abdelmadjid Taright respectively inspector generals of the land, air and naval forces. The creation of these organs of inspection and control constitutes one of the phases of the restructuration of the People's National Army for a better accomplishment of the missions assigned to the National Army through the Constitution and which consist in the safeguard of the national independence, the defence of the national sovereignty, unity and the territorial integrity of the country as well as the protection of its land, air and maritime space without forgetting the part that the law conferred to it concerning the security of persons and properties.

Egypt

Mubarak Addresses Nation on Sinai Liberation Day

NC2504101092 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 0819 GMT 25 Apr 92

[Address to the nation by President Husni Mubarak marking the 10th anniversary of Sinai Liberation Day on 25 April; place not given—recorded]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Brothers and sisters:

Among Egypt's immortal days 25 April is a precious memory for every Egyptian. It marks the day on which Egypt's flags were hoisted over Sinai, declaring the complete liberation of Egyptian territory on a day which will remain throughout history a symbol of the will of a great people, one capable of confronting all challenges. This year marks the 10th anniversary of this glorious day, renewing in our hearts the happiness of the homeland after its soil was purified and igniting in us the sentiments of gratitude to the brave men who waged the most honorable battles to regain for Egypt its territory and dignity.

On this distinguished day we remember with all the sentiments of faithfulness and respect our armed forces' martyrs who shed their blood on the sands of Sinai in the glorious October battles. We also remember our devoted heroes who were wounded while bravely carrying out the most noble and distinguished tasks. We remember our other men who gave their lives on the home front while extending assistance to their armed forces, thus manifesting the unity of the people with their brave armed forces.

On this distinguished day we salute with all sentiments of gratitude and faithfulness the late President Muhammad Anwar al-Sadat, maker of the war decision and hero of the peace process, who realized with his perceptive mind that a just war is essential for the country to regain its dignity and that just peace is not an impossible goal if we pursue it from the position of dignity and strength.

Brother citizens, one of the greatest effects of the October war was that it proved to the entire world that the Egyptian will can never fade or become lax because it is the will of a great people who reject injustice and

oppression, sanctify the soil of the homeland, do not give away an inch of their territory, and are able to shoulder the burdens of war just as they are able to shoulder the burdens of peace.

Our demand has been from the start and remains a just and comprehensive peace under which all the parties will have equal rights. It will end the evils of war and the claims of superiority and expansion, it is based on good neighborliness and mutual interests, it gives the peoples of the region a chance to build and construct, it removes the region from the vicious circle of conflict and violence, and it paves the way for a better future for coming generations.

When the Egyptian flag was raised over Sinai on 25 April, thus reestablishing Egyptian sovereignty over all its territories, this was a clear message to everyone that peace was no longer impossible. Indeed, the message was that peace could be established and consolidated as long as it was based on justice and equal rights. We thank God that the message of a just peace which Egypt pioneered, with heroism and sacrifice, has now become a pan-Arab objective that all the Arab nations without exception support. It is likewise an international demand encouraged by all the nations that aspire to a new and more secure and stable world.

The quest for a just peace, the difficult initial stages of which Egypt embarked on amid a dense fog that prevented proper vision, has now become an irresistible current that enjoys the backing of all peace-loving forces and a new trend in international relations that emphasizes the exclusion of war and resolving conflicts by peaceful means.

In addition to its destructive effects and immense tragedies, war has not succeeded in attaining a sound solution to any current world crisis. On the contrary, it has complicated them further, entrenched the feelings of hate and acrimony, and squandered immense resources and potential that would otherwise have contributed to human progress.

No one in the entire world bore the brunt of war hardships and dangers as did the nations of our region. War took the lives of their youth, destroyed their resources and potential, made them lose numerous opportunities to attain progress, and plunged them into a whirlpool of violence that lasted for nearly half a century. Yet the conflict could not be decided in the favor of any of the warring parties. In war there is no victor or vanquished because its only result is loss for all concerned. Therefore, it was not surprising that the call for peace should come from Egypt and that all the nations of the region without exception should support this call, which found a positive response everywhere else.

We know that the path to peace will not be easy. We know that it is arduous, long, and fraught with obstacles. We are convinced, however, that the will of peace will eventually prevail because peace is the goal of all nations and because the enemies of peace, regardless of the pretexts behind which they now shield themselves, will not be able to resist the call of all humanity.

Peace is also the language of a new era. It inspires competition for the sake of advancing civilization. Every day peace gains new supporters who yearn for new relations which will link all the area's nations and eliminate the trends of expansionism, overcome the grudges of the past, and open prospects for a bright future for coming generations.

We will continue to maintain our present stand, struggling for the sake of a just and comprehensive peace regardless of the obstacles. We will uphold the banners of justice and right and we will support the wronged side until it regains its rights. We will eliminate the fears gripping those who have doubts, and we will restore the messages of hope and tranquillity.

Our message is one of principle and ideology because it is the message of an eternal homeland of civilization and development. It is a message of a great people who pursue security and prosperity for everyone.

Brothers and sisters, I convey my heartfelt congratulations to every Egyptian on this happy day, the day of Sinai. We implore God to crown our march with success, to strengthen us on the road of development, and to give strength and cohesion to our march so as to overcome difficulties and attain our objectives for a bright, prosperous future for everyone.

May peace be with you and may God's blessings and mercy be upon you.

RTU, Arabsat Sign Space Channel Agreement

NC2604205392 Cairo Egyptian Space Channel in Arabic 1600 GMT 26 Apr 92

[Text] Today at noon Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif attended the signing of a contract establishing the Egyptian Space Channel's broadcast via the first-generation C-band Arab Satellite Communications Organization [Arabsat].

The agreement was signed for the Radio and Television Union [RTU] by engineer Mahmud Kishk, head of the transmission engineering sector, and 'Abd-al-Qadir Ji'ayri, Arabsat director general for satellite communications. Heads of radio and television sectors, the supervisor of the Space Channel, and a number of Channel 4 employees attended the signing ceremony.

The accord was signed at the Channel 4 transmission center in Ismailia to emphasize the role of regional channels in light of the development of various international satellites.

Under the agreement Egypt will be entitled to the best use of Arabsat to ensure continuous transmission via this satellite.

Al-Sharif called for studies to begin on second-generation satellites and noted the Arab organization's precision and cooperation in establishing firm bases for Arab information. He said that the signing of the agreement at the canal's radio and television center demonstrates its role in regional development as one component of Egyptian media.

'Abd-al-Qadir Ji'ayri spoke at the ceremony, praising Egypt's great role in utilizing all modern facilities to boost Arab media.

Libya

'Tension' Suggests Leadership Split Over Lockerbie

LD2504103892 London THE DAILY TELEGRAPH in English 25 Apr 92 p 13

[Report by Alan Philps]

[Excerpt] Evidence grew yesterday of a split between Colonel al-Qadhdhafi, the Libyan leader, and his number two over how to extricate their country from the Lockerbie crisis.

Suspicions were strengthened as the last foreign reporters left Tripoli.

They received conflicting orders from Libyan officials on whether they should stay or go, reflecting indecision at the top on whether to keep a line of communication open within the West.

With tension palpable among the hierarchy and no sign of the leader being ready to speak, the foreign press corps decided to leave. Because of United Nations air sanctions, imposed last week, most went by road to Tunisia.

The sanctions are designed to press Tripoli into surrendering two Libyan men suspected of planting the bomb which blew up Pan Am flight 103 over Lockerbie in December 1988, killing 270 people.

Diplomats believe Colonel al-Qadhdhafi is increasingly at odds with his number two, Major 'Abd-al-Salam Jallud, who controls the Libyan revolutionary committees and is resolutely opposed to acceding to the UN demands.

This would explain some bizarre developments in the run-up to the imposition of sanctions:

Libya announced at the UN in New York that the two bomb suspects would be handed over for trial. The offer was endorsed by Colonel al-Qadhdhafi—only to be withdrawn less than two days later.

The burning down of the Venezuelan embassy in retaliation for the sanctions vote—Venezuela was president of the UN Security Council at the time—was the work of the revolutionary committees, and appeared to be at odds with Colonel al-Qadhdhafi's policy of trying to calm the crisis.

Major Jallud has ties of kinship with one suspect, 'Abd-al-Basit Muhammad 'Ali Miqrahi, and would thus suffer a personal loss of prestige if he were to be handed over for trial in a foreign court.

The Major, a companion of Colonel al-Qadhdhafi's in his 1969 coup and a member of the same al-Miqrarha tribe, has been using his ties with Italy—his tribe was one of the few to support the Italian occupation of Libya—to try to undermine European solidarity on the extradition demand.

Colonel al-Qadhdhafi, however, is caught in a dilemma. He fears that any trial of the two suspects would be used by the West as an excuse to indict him and put him in a US jail—as happened to Manuel Noriega of Panama. But he is even more concerned that the US Navy and Air Force might kill him if he does not comply. A US bombing raid in 1986 narrowly missed him.

Given the lack of support for him in the Arab world—only Syria has made any gesture to defy the UN ban on flights—he has been toying with ways to meet the UN demands.

He has sought to try to present a climbdown as a free decision by the suspects themselves to spare their country international isolation. But this device is not acceptable to Major Jallud and his revolutionary committees. [passage omitted]

Libyan 'Sources' Deny Disagreements

NC2704110192 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0823 GMT 27 Apr 92

[Text] Tripoli, 27 Apr (MENA)—Well-informed Libyan sources have denied reports disseminated by Western press sources that leaders of the Libyan revolution are having disagreements on how to handle the current crisis between Libya and some Western countries.

In statements to MENA today these sources said that stories about some Arab countries offering to help Libya resolve the crisis are simply part of the ferocious campaign against Libya.

The Libyan sources said that Western countries do not yet understand the situation in Libya, a country which is not ruled by an individual or a president but rather where the entire population is the authority through the various levels of nationwide People's Congresses.

The sources added that due to the nature of decision-making in Libya, the final decision is not that of Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, 'Abd-al-Sallam Jallud, Abu-Bakr Yunus, Mustafa al-Kharrubi, or al-Khuwaylidi al-Humaydi, all of whom are members of the historic leadership of the al-Fatih Revolution; the final decision rests with the masses, who have real power over everything on Libyan soil.

The Libyan sources recalled what Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the Libyan revolution, has said

in more than one speech: The Libyan masses will not hand over their sons for trial in the West; however, if the suspects wish to turn themselves in voluntarily, the Libyan Jamahiriyah will not raise any objections.

The sources added that the guarantee of a fair trial is something which any reasonable person would consider necessary and vital for any movement on the issue.

Official Says Embargo Affecting Health Services

LD2504164892 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1455 GMT 25 Apr 92

[Excerpts] Tripoli, 25 Apr (JANA)—An official source at the General People's Committee for Health in the Great Jamahiriyah stated that the baseless NATO Resolution 748 to impose mandatory sanctions on the Great Jamahiriyah is having a negative impact on the services provided to citizens by the health sector and has obstructed the progress of these services.

In a statement to JANA this source indicated that halting flights to and from the Great Jamahiriyah had contributed directly to a lack of urgently needed medical supplies. [passage omitted]

The source pointed out that a number of means of maritime transportation and international maritime agencies do not have the expertise or facilities needed to preserve some types of medicine, vaccines, and serum which all international health organizations, the foremost of which is the WHO, recommend be frozen. If this process is not followed it leads to the destruction of such medicines. Also, Libyan and international ports are not equipped for storage to these specifications. [passage omitted]

The source said that the imposition by some countries of measures on their citizens requiring them to leave the Great Jamahiriyah has led to a great disruption due to the departure of numbers of foreign workers such as nurses, technicians, doctors, maintenance experts, etc.

Because of the difficulties involved in their travel (and arrival in Libya), many professors and medical specialists apologized because their visits, as part of programs to perform difficult operations, treat incurable cases, or aid university examinations and training, were disrupted. [passage omitted]

Sudan

Abuja-Hosted Peace Conference Set for 24 May

EA2704085592 Omdurman Sudan Broadcasting Service Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 26 Apr 92

[Text] Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir, chairman of the Presidential Council [as heard] and the Council of Ministers, met Brigadier Godai, member of the Nigerian Executive Council and Nigerian President Ibrahim Babangida's peace envoy, at his office at the General Secretariat of the Council of Ministers this afternoon. The meeting reviewed the different points of view concerning the date for the peace conference at Abuja. Following the meeting, Brig. Godai said that Lt. Gen. al-Bashir had stressed to him Sudan's interest in permanent peace and the success of the efforts of Nigerian President Babangida.

The Nigerian president's envoy added that an agreement was reached in principle with Lt. Gen. al-Bashir that the peace conference should be held in Abuja on 24 May.

Earlier, the Nigerian president's envoy met with Transitional Assembly Speaker Mr. Muhammad al-Amin Khalifah, who emphasized to him Sudan's interest in peace.

SPLA Faction Amenable to Talks

AB2404145592 Paris AFP in English 1430 GMT 24 Apr 92

[Excerpt] Nairobi, April 24 (AFP)—A faction of the rebel Sudanese People's Liberation Army (SPLA) is "willing and ready to participate in any peace initiative," the faction leader Lam Akol said here Friday [24 April].

Akol was reacting to a statement on Thursday by Sudanese ambassador to Ethiopia 'Uthman al-Sayyid Fadl who said Khartoum was ready for a political settlement of the rebellion in the south of the country. Akol told AFP here on Friday that plans for peace talks in Nigeria had not yet "concretised" and no date had been set for the discussions. He added his faction would attend such talks if invited by the Nigerian mediators. [passage omitted]

Armed Forces Win Victories in Mabyor Area

AB2604083592 Khartoum SUNA in English 1723 GMT 25 Apr 92

[Text] Khartoum, 25 Apr (SUNA)—The armed forces and Popular Defence Forces Wednesday [22 April] crushed the rebel forces at Mabyor area, south of Bahr al-'Arab, announced the armed forces official spokesman, Major General Muhammad 'Abdallah Uwaydah.

He said the armed forces and Popular Defence Forces have inflicted heavy losses in lives and equipment. He added that the armed forces captured heavy and light artilleries, including a vehicle with UNICEF mark loaded with an anti-aircraft artillery.

The rebels, said Maj. Gen. Uwaydah, who were turned into scattered armed robbery gangs, hopelessly tries to stop al-salam (peace) train that was heading for Uwayl there at Mabyor station [as received] attempted to ambush the train and to kill innocent passengers but the armed forces and Popular Defence Forces were there to repulse and destroy them, Uwaydah stated.

Recapture Mongalla Town

EA2504183092 Khartoum SUNA in English 1611 GMT 25 Apr 92

[Text] Khartoum, 25 Apr (SUNA)—The armed forces and the People's Defense Forces Saturday [25 April] morning retook Mongalla town, north of Juba in the Equatorian State. (?The) recapture of Mongalla was announced in a statement released [by the] armed forces' general command here.

Government Accuses Red Cross of Supporting Rebels

LD2604152792 Bern Swiss Radio International in English 1500 GMT 26 Apr 92

[Text] The military government in Sudan has accused the All-Swiss International Committee of the Red Cross [ICRC] of supporting rebels of the Sudan People's Liberation Army. The minister of welfare and social development, Sulayman Abu-Salih, said the ICRC had supported the rebels materially and morally. He also criticized the organization's treatment of 12,000 young boys who he said were recruited by the rebels after the ICRC had settled them in rebel war zones instead of in safe areas.

An ICRC spokesman in Geneva said the accusations were being looked into but that all ICRC activities had received clearance from the Sudanese Government.

Kuwait

State Rejects Iraq's Charge of Airspace Violation

LD2404200792 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1700 GMT 24 Apr 92

[Text] Kuwait, United Nations, 24 Apr (KUNA)—In a letter to the UN secretary general today, the State of Kuwait rejected an Iraqi allegation that a Kuwaiti freight aircraft had flown through Iraqi airspace on 20 April.

The letter, signed by Nabilah al-Mullah, Kuwait's acting representative to the international organization, said that the flight was licensed by the United Nations and was in accordance with an earlier previous authorization from the Iraqi Foreign Ministry for ordinary purposes concerning the return of possessions.

The letter pointed out that Iraq deliberately has continued to repeat these allegations with the aim of drawing attention away from its many violations of the Security Council resolutions.

Al-Mullah was replying to a letter from the Iraqi delegate to the United Nations which claimed Kuwait's violation of the cease-fire contained in Resolution 687.

Russian Foreign Minister Kozyrev Begins Visit

Supports UN Resolutions on Iraq

LD2504205492 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1800 GMT 25 Apr 92

[Excerpts] Kuwait, 25 Apr (KUNA)—This evening Andrey Kozyrev, visiting Russian Federation foreign minister, held official talks with Shaykh Salim al-Sabah, deputy prime minister and foreign minister. [passage omitted]

KUNA has learned that the two sides in the course of the talks this evening reviewed the UN Security Council resolutions adopted against Iraq following the latter's occupation of the State of Kuwait, and the extent of Iraq's compliance with the international resolutions. KUNA has learned that the Russian Federation foreign minister reaffirmed his country's position and its commitment to supporting the total implementation of the international resolutions in this regard, especially with regard to the release of all Kuwaiti prisoners detained by the Iraqi regime, the demarcation of the Kuwaiti-Iraqi border, and the question of compensation. [passage omitted]

Meets With Amir, Departs

LD2604134192 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1000 GMT 26 Apr 92

[Excerpts] Kuwait, 26 Apr (KUNA)—Russian Federation Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev left the country this morning after a two-day official visit. Mr. Kozyrev was seen off at the airport by Shaykh Salim al-Sabah, deputy prime minister and foreign minister; Sulayman Majid al-Shahin, Foreign Ministry under secretary; and a number of high-ranking officials in the Foreign Ministry.

The Russian foreign minister reiterated his country's firm stand regarding the continuation of support for the international efforts aimed at making Iraq implement all the Security Council resolutions passed following the unjust Iraqi occupation of Kuwait. This was stated during the audiences which Amir Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad and Shaykh Sa'ad al-'Abdallah al-Salim al-Sabah, heir apparent and prime minister, respectively, granted to the Russian minister here today before his departure.

The Russian minister emphasized his country's desire to develop bilateral relations especially in the technical fields. He called for the continuation of the exchange of visits between officials at various levels to consolidate relations of friendship and cooperation between Kuwait and the Russian Federation. [passage omitted]

On the other hand, Mr. Kozyrev expressed his satisfaction with the results of his meetings with his highness the amir, with the heir apparent and prime minister, and his talks with Shaykh Salim al-Sabah, deputy prime minister and foreign minister. In a news statement prior to his departure he pointed out that the results of his visit will bolster Russian-Kuwaiti relations and strengthen future cooperation between the two sides in bilateral and multisided spheres. [passage omitted]

Shaykh Salim al-Sabah, Kuwaiti deputy prime minister and foreign minister, pointed out that his talks with the Russian minister concentrated on bolstering bilateral relations. He added that in this connection he discussed the issue of Kuwaiti and other prisoners detained by the Iraqi authorities, as well as the issue of the demarcation of the Kuwaiti-Iraqi border and the question of reparations. He added that he had also discussed with Minister Kozyrev Russian-Gulf relations as well as issues of mutual interest. [passage omitted]

'Brotherly Atmosphere' Noted in Syria Talks

LD2704084292 Riyadh SPA in English 1931 GMT 26 Apr 92

[Text] Kuwait, April 26, SPA—The Kuwaiti cabinet has expressed its relief for the brotherly atmosphere which prevailed during talks between Amir Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah and Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad last week.

During the weekly session held on Sunday under the chairmanship of Crown Prince Shaykh Sa'ad al-'Abdallah al-Sabah, the ministers confirmed the similarity of Kuwaiti and Syrian views on the latest Arab and international developments and bilateral relations.

The Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs Dhari al-'Uthman said the council also probed several local, Arab and international issues.

Oman

Syrian President al-Asad Concludes Visit

PM2704102292 Muscat OMAN DAILY OBSERVER in English 23 Apr 92 pp 1, 2

[Unattributed report: ""Talks Deep and Comprehensive""]

[Text] Muscat—President Hafiz al-Asad of Syria left the Sultanate yesterday at the end of a two-day visit during which he held official talks on the latest developments in Arab and international spheres as well as on relations between their countries.

The President, who had made his first visit to the Sultanate, was given a ceremonial sendoff at the Royal Airport with His Majesty Sultan Qabus bidding him farewell with an embrace.

The Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, Yusuf Bin-'Alawi Bin-'Abdallah, and Syrian Vice-President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam said His Majesty the Sultan and President al-Asad held identical views on crucial issues.

In a statement to Oman News Agency, Yusuf Bin-'Alawi said the talks were "deep and comprehensive".

As well as bilateral relations, the talks dealt with regional and international issues, particularly the Middle East, he said.

Both leaders held essentially identical views in the interpretation of various critical changes witnessed by the world, the Minister said, adding the talks were fruitful.

"As a result of this visit and the talks, Omani-Syrian ties will experience distinctive and positive development," Yusuf Bin-'Alawi said. The exchange of views and co-operation would continue for the benefit of the Omani and Syrian people, he added.

Also talking to ONA, the Syrian Vice-President said the views of His Majesty Sultan Qabus and the President were identical on the issues they discussed.

"Views on important issues concerning us as Arabs were exchanged," Khaddam said, pointing out they were identical.

"President al-Asad came out with positive impressions as a result of his talks with His Majesty," the Vice-President stated.

He concluded his remarks saying the President's visit marked an important step towards strengthening ties in all fields between the brotherly countries.

In the departure ceremony, President al-Asad reviewed a guard of honour. Earlier he had arrived at the airport in a motorcade with His Majesty.

The Omani Royal Anthem and the National Anthem of Syria were played. The President greeted members of the Royal Family, Ministers, senior Sultan's Armed Forces and Royal Oman Police officers, heads of Arab diplomatic missions and the Syrian community in Oman.

His majesty shook hands with senior members of the President's entourage before embracing the President near his plane.

Fighter aircraft of the Royal Air Force of Oman escorted the presidential plane.

Saudi Arabia

Reportage on Visit of Russian Foreign Minister

Meets With Prince Sultan

LD2504131492 Riyadh Saudi Arabian Kingdom Radio Network in Arabic 1130 GMT 25 Apr 92

[Text] His Royal Highness Prince Sultan Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, second deputy prime minister, minister of defense and aviation, and inspector general, received in his office this morning His Excellency Andrey Kozyrev, Russian foreign minister, who is currently visiting the Kingdom. During the meeting the two men had a cordial talk and exchanged gifts.

The meeting was attended by Muhammad Ibrahim Mas'ud, minister of state and member of the Council of Ministers; Dr. 'Abd-al-Aziz Khujah, Saudi ambassador to Russia; Mr. Gennadiy Tarasov, Russian ambassador to the Kingdom; and the delegation accompanying the Russian foreign minister.

Gives Yeltsin Message to King Fahd

LD2504134192 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1325 GMT 25 Apr 92

[Excerpt] Riyadh, 25 Apr (SPA)—King Fahd Bin-'Abd-'al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, custodian of the two holy mosques, received a message from His Excellency President Boris Yeltsin of the Russian Republic. The message was conveyed to the custodian of the two holy mosques by His Excellency Andrey Kozyrev, Russian foreign minister, when the king received the latter and his accompanying delegation at al-Yamamah Palace today. [passage omitted]

Republic of Yemen

Justice Minister Wounded in Assassination Attempt

JN2604174492 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1713 GMT 26 Apr 92

[Text] A responsible source at the Interior Ministry has stated the following:

Brother 'Abd-al-Wasi' Sallam [words indistinct] attempt on his life [words indistinct] around 1315 today. He was taken to al-Thawrah General Hospital. The source added that the competent agencies are investigating the incident.

The Yemeni news agency SABA' learned that a (?session of the Council of Representatives) [words indistinct] and (?members of the Presidential Council) have [words

indistinct] the justice minister and congratulated him on his safety, wishing him a speedy recovery.

Hospitalized, 'Not in Danger'

AB2604142592 Paris AFP in French 1326 GMT 26 Apr 92

[Text] Sanaa, 26 Apr (AFP)—Yemeni Justice Minister 'Abd-al-Wasi' Sallam was wounded yesterday afternoon in a criminal attempt in the center of Sanaa by armed people, witnesses told AFP.

The minister's life was not in danger, according to hospital sources.

An unknown number of people opened fire on the justice minister's car right in the center of the capital. They forced the minister, his chauffeur, and his bodyguard out of the car and then opened fire on them. Only the chauffeur was unhurt.

Mr. Sallam and his bodyguard were admitted to the hospital in Sanaa.

Tariq 'Aziz Calls on Arab States To Lift Embargo

JN2604190492 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1815 GMT 26 Apr 92

[Text] Baghdad, 26 Apr (INA)—Mr. Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and member of the Revolution Command Council, has asserted that the Arab states' compliance with the unjust economic embargo against Iraq is no longer justified. He added that these states should have their say because Iraq has implemented the Security Council resolutions without the Security Council doing anything to lift the embargo.

Speaking at the evening working session of the General Secretariat of the Arab Popular Forces Conference currently being held in Baghdad, Tariq 'Aziz said that any Arab decision to maintain the embargo against Iraq cannot be understood as compliance with Security Council resolutions but rather as contributing toward the U.S.-Western colonialist scheme against the Arab nation.

He affirmed that the United States is deliberately using a series of pretexts in its policy against Iraq to confuse the Security Council members so that it can use force.

He added that the basic issue is not that of compliance with the resolutions and legitimacy. Rather, the United States is seeking, by all direct and indirect means, to impose political and military hegemony on Iraq and the states of the region.

The deputy prime minister briefed the leaders of Arab parties and popular forces on the dimensions of the U.S. position and the series of resolutions issued following the imperialist U.S.-Zionist- Atlantic aggression against Iraq.

He added that the resolutions issued against Iraq are unjust and unfair and seek to prejudice its sovereignty and threaten its security and future, in keeping with the Western imperialist scheme.

He also reviewed Arab and international developments as well as the upheaval that swept the socialist camp and which has had an impact on the Arab nation. The international situation cannot possibly remain unchanged for long, and whoever thinks otherwise is only deluding himself, 'Aziz continued.

Changes will take place here and there, and that explains why the imperialist circles are racing at a feverish pace to put into practice their colonialist plots to break the will of independent nations.

He noted that the Iraqi Government is handling the Kurdish issue with a rare magnanimity and tolerance. The former foreign minister pointed out that the imperialists, and the British in particular, are striving to block any agreement on the Kurdish question.

He emphasized that the Arab nation's substantial resources enable it to be in the forefront of developed nations.

Iraq, he emphasized, has triumphed because it has foiled enemy plans to destroy it and its program for advancement. 'Aziz declared that Iraq's will will survive and that Iraq will persevere on the road of progress with whatever material resources are available.

UN Ruling on Kuwaiti Border 'Implicitly' Rejected

JN2704142492 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1200 GMT 27 Apr 92

[Text] Iraq today implicitly rejected a resolution adopted by a UN committee on 16 April concerning the demarcation of the border between Iraq and Kuwait. This came in a statement made by Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz, who said that this resolution is not based on any legal documents. He said that the West knows full well that these borders can never be accepted, that the problem will continue to be unresolved, and that consequently this would provide a reason to continue their forces' presence in the region, as the Iraqi official put it.

Opposition Group Criticizes Accord

NC2504185392 (Clandestine) Voice of the Iraqi People in Arabic 1400 GMT 25 Apr 92

[Text] The Joint Action Committee of the Iraqi Opposition Forces in Britain issued a statement today. It said that after the Iraqi-Kuwaiti Border Demarcation Committee had completed its work in mid-April it adopted recommendations on the issue which have caused great apprehension among all segments of the Iraqi people and have placed the region on the threshold of regional problems which will benefit the enemies of the nation and region.

The statement said that the Iraqi people, who continue to support their Kuwaiti brothers and who still suffer from the repression and injustice of the renegade despot Saddam, whose evil hand touched peaceful Kuwait, hope that Kuwaiti decisionmakers will display more wisdom and foresight and will contribute to establishing pillars of stability in the region so that all the region's countries, particularly Iraq and Kuwait, will enjoy security and prosperity.

The statement emphasized that the Iraqi-Kuwaiti border is supported by internationally recognized documents. A new border cannot be imposed just because there are exceptional conditions surrounding the countries of the region.

Saddam Inspects Domestically Built Tractor

JN2504143492 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1330 GMT 25 Apr 92

[Text] Baghdad, 25 Apr (INA)—President Saddam Husayn today visited the State Enterprise for Mechanical Industries. He was accompanied by Staff Lieutenant General Husayn Kamil Hasan, adviser to the president of the Republic.

The president acquainted himself with a new agricultural tractor, the al-Nida' model, the parts of which were all manufactured in our Iraqi homeland by purely Iraqi hands.

All the industrial enterprises contributing to this achievement have made unprecedented, if not unique, efforts.

The order to manufacture the tractor was issued only two months ago. This means that the first model was produced within two months by the strugglers, who dedicated this achievement to the Iraqi people and to their leader, President Saddam Husayn, on the occasion of his blessed birthday on 28 April.

The State Enterprise for Mechanical Industries was a major contributor among the companies participating in this project.

President Saddam Husayn ordered that a sum of 2.5 millions dinars be granted to workers on the project. Technicians and workers of the company then rushed to the president to welcome him and assure him of their absolute loyalty to the people's leader and the nation's knight, to declare to the entire world their love for him, to express through their slogans and chants their strong belief in the principles for which we fought, and to voice their fury at the poles of the aggression, namely U.S. and Zionist leaders and the aggressors' allies and their slaves: the foreigners' servants of the Arab nation.

Saddam Receives Birthday Message From King Husayn

JN2704085592 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0629 GMT 27 Apr 92

[Text] Baghdad, 27 Apr (INA)—President Saddam Husayn has received a cable from his brother His Majesty King Husayn Bin-Talal of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan congratulating him on his birthday. The following is the text of the cable:

On the occasion of your birthday I am pleased to send to your excellency, on my behalf and on the behalf of the people and the Government of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, the warmest heartfelt congratulations and sincerest fraternal feelings, praying to God Almighty that you will celebrate other anniversaries while enjoying good health, happiness, and success, and that the fraternal Iraqi people will celebrate them while enjoying continued advancement, loftiness, and progress.

Receives Message From King Hassan

JN2704085092 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0640 GMT 27 Apr 92

[Text] Baghdad, 27 Apr (INA)—President Saddam Husayn has received a congratulatory cable on the occasion of his excellency's birthday from His Majesty King Hassan II, the king of Morocco. The cable says:

We are pleased to take the opportunity of your birthday to send you our best wishes and warmest regards. We pray to God Almighty that you and the fraternal Iraqi people will always celebrate this occasion while enjoying health, happiness, and all that brings you security, peace, progress, and prosperity in support of the Arab and Islamic nation so that it can stand strong, proud, united, and be able to confront current and new developments and to liberate its usurped territories, the foremost of which are holy Jerusalem and beloved Palestine. He is the one who responds to our prayers.

Please accept our utmost respect and appreciation.

Delegation Leaves on Visit to Damascus

JN2404173892 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1700 GMT 24 Apr 92

[Text] Reports from Baghdad have said that an Iraqi delegation led by Baghdad Governor Suhayl Muhammad Salih left the Iraqi capital today for Damascus, where it will participate in the meetings of the Administrative Council of the Organization of Arab and Islamic Capitals and Cities.

The delegation will make a stopover in Amman to discuss with officials in the Jordanian capital means of cooperation within the framework of making the two capitals [Amman and Baghdad] sister cities.

The Iraqi delegation will be the first to visit Syria since the Gulf war.

Opposition Reports Clashes in Southern Region

Claims Government Forces Repulsed

NC2604151992 (Clandestine) Voice of Rebellious Iraq in Arabic 1317 GMT 26 Apr 92

[Text] The fierce confrontations between the front of the just, as represented by our valiant heroes, and that of Saddamite falsehood are still continuing. The sons of our rebellious Iraq are charting a new epic to be added to their immortal book of jihad. The zealous sons of the blessed uprising continue to repulse the treacherous 'Aflaqite attacks and to launch lightning raids against the defeated Saddamite remnants, inflicting shameful defeats upon them. This is despite the fact that the tyrant and his mercenaries are using all types of weapons.

The fierce battles reached a peak in the marshlands of al-'Amarah and al-Nasiriyah Governorates, but the situation, thank God, is in favor of our popular troops.

Regime Said To Plan New Assault

NC2604175892 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1720 GMT 26 Apr 92

[Text] An urgent appeal to the valiant Iraqi opposition in the areas of al-'Amarah, al-Nasiriyah, and al-Hawr al-Kabir: The Iraqi forces are poised to launch a new

offensive against the Iraqi opposition in central and southern Iraq. This requires adopting maximum vigilance and caution.

Our monitoring department has intercepted the following urgent and secret cable:

Urgent and secret cable No. 1619 dated 25 April: From the defense movements [harakat al-difa'] to coastal defense [al-difa' al-sahili]. Be prepared to act on 27 April to comb [tamshit] the following areas: Al-Nasiriyah, al-'Amarah, and al-Hawr al-Kabir.

Regime Denies Attacks, Says UK 'Interfering'

JN2504181892 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1800 GMT 25 Apr 92

[Text] Baghdad, 25 Apr (INA)—An official spokesman today denied an allegation by a British Foreign Office official that Iraqi forces have launched attacks on southern Iraq.

The spokesman told INA that the British official is promoting lies formulated in Tehran which speak of nonexistent military attacks, and that he is arrogantly interfering in Iraq's domestic affairs.

The spokesman said that by repeating these lies Britain, which is known for its black colonialist past in the region, also seeks to maintain the unjust blockade imposed on the Iraqi people to realize its colonialist objectives.

SAIRI Urges Ghali To Send UN Team to South

NC2504162392 Paris AFP in English 1559 GMT 25 Apr 92

[Text] Nicosia, April 25 (AFP)—A key Iraqi opposition group on Saturday urged U.N. Secretary General Butrus Butrus Ghali to send a fact-finding mission to southern Iraq, saying "hundreds" of people were killed this week there in an Iraqi offensive.

"We exhort you to intervene immediately and dispatch a fact-finding team to investigate in the marshlands (of southern Iraq), where the population is submitted to a campaign of extermination," the Tehran-based Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq (SAIRI) said in a statement received here.

SAIRI urged Butrus Ghali to "take measures to stop (Iraqi President) Saddam Husayn and put an end to his military aggression" against the people of south Iraq.

On Wednesday SAIRI charged that the Iraqi Army had launched a major offensive against the Iraqi marshlands, where thousands of mostly Shiite Iraqi Muslims took refuge after an aborted coup to topple Husayn last year.

SAIRI said that "hundreds" of people were killed and "thousands" left homeless since the offensive began, stressing that military operations were still taking place Saturday.

There was no independent confirmation of the report but Iran's official IRNA news agency had also reported Wednesday that Iraq had launched an offensive against residents of the marshlands.

Official Source Criticizes Allied Forces in Turkey

JN2504092792 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0816 GMT 25 Apr 92

[Text] Baghdad, 25 Apr (INA)—Commenting on the British foreign secretary's recent visit to Turkey and the press reports that have leaked out concerning an agreement extending the presence of the U.S., British, and French forces in Turkey, an official source today stated the following:

The United States, Britain, and France have imposed their forces on northern Iraq and afterward on Turkey for reasons that have nothing to do with the UN resolutions that were issued after the 2 August 1990 events. These states have adopted a colonialist and arrogant approach with the aim of harming Iraq's sovereignty, threatening its internal security, and destabilizing its domestic situation to achieve their colonialist ambitions and impose their control on the region. All signs indicate that this process has had negative repercussions not on Iraq alone but also on neighborly Turkey itself. This has been explicitly or implicitly stated by some Turkish figures.

Iraq considers the military presence of these three states to be a threat to its sovereignty and a scheme to encourage attempts at destabilizing the domestic situation. Iraq hopes that neighborly Turkey, in dealing with this issue, will take into account the rights of neighborliness and history and the Islamic links between our two countries. Iraq hopes that Turkey will not allow these colonialist powers to turn it into a springboard for harming Iraq and threatening its sovereignty and security.

The spokesman said: The U.S., British, and French pretexts for keeping their forces in Turkey are false and unfounded. The Turkish authorities themselves know this through the numerous contacts that we have held with them.

Paper Urges Forces' Expulsion

JN2704142092 Baghdad INA in English 1215 GMT 27 Apr 92

[Text] Baghdad, Apr 27, INA—AL-THAWRAH daily, organ of the Arab Ba'th Socialist Party, said that the United States, Britain and France intended to realize through the presence of their forces in the Turkish territories a colonialist goal aimed at threatening Iraq sovereignty and security and imposing full domain over the region.

In an article published today, the daily said that Iraq had called on Turkey, out of its keenness on the historical and religious ties and common interests linking the two countries, to terminate the foreign military presence in

"Incirlik" base, especially following recent news reports about the West's intention to extend the period of their presence which was due to expire next June.

It went on saying that Iraq's call came to stress the importance of consolidating the neighbourly relations with Turkey in such a way that would serve the security of both countries.

The daily made it clear that Turkey had faced a hard economic situation as a result of the economic blockade imposed on Iraq and the suspension of oil-pumping operations.

It stressed that the hostile triplet, including Washington, London and Paris, insisted on maintaining their forces in the Turkish base for the longest time possible to interfere in Iraq's internal affairs, confirming that this alliance had brought its troops to the north of Iraq and later to Turkey for reasons that had nothing to do with the UN Security Council resolutions issued following Aug. 2, 1990 events.

AL-THAWRAH further said that the news that surfaced following the British foreign secretary's visit to Turkey were pure fabrications, for Turkey had its own free options.

It concluded that Iraq's demand stemmed from its sincere willingness to develop the friendly relations with its neighbour in service of the security and sovereignty of both Iraq and Turkey.

Daily Warns Iran Against Domestic Interference

JN2504130192 Baghdad INA in English 1210 GMT 25 Apr 92

[Text] Baghdad, Apr. 25, INA—AL-JUMHURIYAH newspaper warned Iran that serious dangers was awaiting it if it insisted on its aggressive course against Iraq.

A paper article here today advised the Iranian regime to leave the dangerous course it might had involved in, through motivation by others.

The paper said that this regime daily meddles in the course and policy of interference in the internal affairs of Iraq and breeching its sovereignty.

The paper cited conspiratorial designs and behaviours carried out by the Iranian regime against Iraq and were represented in its major role in the sabotage acts that followed the U.S. led 30-states aggression on Iraq in contradiction to what it had declared of its slogan on the so-called the great devil.

AL-JUMHURIYAH stressed that the anti-Iraq Iranian behaviours and the flagrant interference into Iraq's internal affairs undoubtedly confirmed that the Iranian regime continues playing with fire that would eventually burns it and its aggressive course.

The paper said the Iranian regime should not be disillusioned that its aggressive policy against Iraq could yield any success. [sentence as received]

Information Minister Receives Azerbaijani Official

JN2604134592 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1230 GMT 26 Apr 92

[Text] Baghdad, 26 Apr (INA)—Hamid Yusuf Hammadi, culture and information minister, this morning met with Dzhemshid Kurban Ogly Nuriyev, member of the Azerbaijani national assembly and deputy customs minister.

During the meeting Kurban Ogly Nuriyev expressed the Azerbaijani people's feelings of admiration and appreciation for His Excellency President Saddam Husayn for the efforts and endeavors he has been making to promote the interests of his people and homeland and to vindicate right and justice for world peoples who are striving to achieve welfare and freedom. He added that the Azerbaijani people identified with the Iraqi people when the latter were confronting the malicious 30-state aggression. Kurban Ogly Nuriyev also expressed the hope that Iraqi-Azerbaijani ties will be promoted in all domains in the interest of the two friendly countries and peoples.

For his part, Culture and Information Minister Hamid Yusuf Hammadi noted his appreciation of the Azerbaijani people's position toward Iraq as well as their feelings of solidarity with the Iraqi people. He affirmed Iraq's true desire and willingness to promote, enhance, and bolster ties between the two friendly countries in various spheres, including the media, to help achieve solidarity among all peoples who are endeavoring to vindicate the principles of justice and fairness and also to thwart the aggressive U.S. imperialist conspiracies which seek to promote its interests at the expense of other peoples' interests.

Dzhemshid Kurban Ogly Nuriyev had earlier presented Culture and Information Minister Hamid Yusuf Hammadi with a token present reflecting the feelings of affection and admiration for the great Iraqi people. The meeting was attended by Naji al-Hadithi, under secretary of the Ministry of Culture and Information.

Ambassadorial Relations Established

JN2604203292 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 2000 GMT 26 Apr 92

[Text] Iraq and the Republic of Azerbaijan have agreed to establish diplomatic relations at the ambassadorial level. This came in the following statement issued by the Foreign Ministry:

Statement by the Foreign Ministry.

An agreement has been reached between the Governments of Iraq and Azerbaijan to establish relations at the ambassadorial level. Diplomatic memoranda to this

effect have been exchanged between the foreign ministries of the two countries. The two countries desired to reach this agreement in order to strengthen the bonds of friendship between the people of Iraq and Azerbaijan and to develop these bonds in all domains.

To implement the aforementioned agreement the Republic of Iraq will take all necessary measures to open an embassy in Baku. It is ready to welcome the opening of the embassy of the Republic of Azerbaijan in Baghdad and will do everything necessary to facilitate this objective.

[Signed] Foreign Ministry of the Republic of Iraq

Foreign Minister Expresses Support for Libya

JN2604124192 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1143 GMT 26 Apr 92

[Text] Baghdad, 26 Apr (INA)—Foreign Minister Ahmad Husayn has affirmed that at a time when it endures its wounds and daily bids farewell to martyred children, women, and eldery people who fall victim to the unjust blockade as a result of the scarcity of food and medicine, and despite its suffering, steadfast and struggling Iraq expresses its full support for the fraternal Libyan people.

In a statement to INA before leaving for Cairo this morning to attend the 97th session of the Arab League Council, which will begin there on Tuesday at the level of foreign ministers, the foreign minister said that Iraq had early on cautioned against the new plot against the fraternal Libyan Arab people. Iraq had also declared that the U.S. aggression against Iraq was only the first link in Washington's scheme against every honorable Arab. He urged the Arab nation to adopt a unified stand to defend its interests, freedom, and the future of its generations.

The minister added that while representing Iraq at the Council meetings he will expose all the parties which are colluding with the U.S-Zionist alliance in its treacherous aggression against Iraq, as well as the parties which are striving determinedly and unjustifiably to ensure the maintenance of the unjust economic blockade imposed on the Iraqi people through various unlawful means, including bribes and commissions, to attain this criminal and evil objective.

Paper Criticizes Egyptian Role in Lockerbie Issue

JN2704104092 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0705 GMT 27 Apr 92

[Text] Baghdad, 27 Apr (INA)—BABIL has cautioned that the Egyptian boat is not interested in getting Libya to the shore of safety.

The paper emphasizes that the ruler of Egypt sees Libya merely as a neighboring lebensraum from which any opposition to Western influence must be eliminated.

In its editorial today entitled "O Libyans Be Careful of This Boat," the paper says: The Iraqis know better than anyone the crew that is ruling Egypt today. The Iraqis have suffered the harm of deceit and the bitterness of treason. They have tested the crew currently ruling in Cairo through many chapters, such as the chapter of agentry and the suffering of our Egyptian kinsfolk working abroad.

The paper adds: The people of Iraq have suffered a great deal from Egypt's exploitation of this chapter on the political and intelligence level. The Iraqis know how Husni Mubarak views Arab solidarity and Arab relations, and his logic with regard to collecting spoils, seizing opportunities, and infiltrating at critical moments.

The paper explains: The Iraqis have tested the ruling crew in Egypt during the aggression against Iraq, its preludes before 2 August and after that date, and during the large military operations against Iraq when the Egyptian decisionmaker authorized that which is prohibited. Thus, he dispatched the Egyptian soldier to level his weapon at the most noble and brave soldier, the Iraqi soldier.

The paper says: If we look back we will realize how much the Egyptian president has misled his people and other Arabs to conceal his direct and indirect services to the United States. Like the Iraqis, the Jordanians also know the Egyptian president, how "sincere" he is, and to what extent one can rely on his promises. The Jordanians gave their opinion in the white paper that they issued last year.

BABIL asks: Has the ruling Egyptian crew not made Libya a file which they can peddle to others until it loses its importance? Thus, they would blame the Libyans and receive the price from the West. Hence, they would have sold both parties things which they do not possess.

The paper says: No one should imagine that they are concerned about Libya; that they can, even if they want to, disobey the U.S. master; or that they would hesitate to carry out any task which they are assigned after they agreed to take part in the moral sin against Iraq.

Concluding its editorial, BABIL says: We fear for Libya due to this Egyptian ruler. We fear for Libya, which has now been placed within firing range—something which is usually preceded by maneuvers seeking to mislead, blind, and draw attention. Here is the ruler of Egypt carrying out his part of the big maneuver that precedes the firing.

Kurdish Commentary on Southern Civilians' Expulsion

JN2604202492 (Clandestine) Iraqi Kurdistan Radio in Arabic 1720 GMT 26 Apr 92

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] Another operation, this time of the name al-Anfal [war booty], for the brothers of the south. Our brothers in the marshlands of the south: Around this time in 1988

the same clique carried out a similar operation to annihilate the Kurdish people under the name al-Anfal. It was not, however, al-Anfal in the Islamic sense, which is waged against infidelity and atheism. The Baghdad rulers gave it this name and divested al-Anfal of its true religious meaning so as to plant infidelity and disbelief in the hearts of our Kurdish people who cling to their true religion.

Brothers in the marshlands, it is not something new for this fascist authority to force citizens to leave their villages and to demolish homes over the heads of their residents. Nor is it new for this government to deport thousands of people from their original homes by employing legitimate deception under the guise of transferring citizens to modern complexes on the pretext that they are far from civilized society. This government also forced thousands of Kurdish families to leave their villages where they have lived for thousands of years.

The soldiers who before rushed like ferocious lions to demolish the homes of defenseless citizens and to ransack their villages and farms, and even uproot walnut trees, and destroy [word indistinct] fresh water fountains, mosques and holy shrines, are today rushing with the same strength and fascist morality to force citizens to leave their original homes in the marshlands of the south.

Brothers in the marshlands of the south, we share your suffering and pain. When they attacked our villages, ransacked our homes, and blew up our mosques in the past, you did nothing about it. It is not your crime alone, however. The whole world is a state [words indistinct] terrorism. The Arab world paid the price of its silence when Saddam invaded Kuwait. The free world also paid the price by not heeding the cries for help of Kurdish children, women, and elderly persons in [place-name indistinct].

Our brothers in the marshlands of Iraq, we have shared a decent living together through thick and thin. We have shared your food and (?joy). It is not the habit of a Kurd to turn his back on his fellow Kurd [word indistinct] in his plight.

The suffering [words indistinct] was my suffering and agony yesterday. Our Kurdish people today, having liberated a large part of their territory, are working with unequaled enthusiasm to organize the elections of our National Council, the legitimate representatives of the loyal sons of Kurdistan. Kurdish citizens pin great hopes on this council to rebuild what was destroyed by the ruling authority, and to return the deportees and displaced and the residents of camps to their original homes so that our Kurdistan will live in safety, prosperity, and freedom, and we will be a shelter for our brothers in their plight.

'Fictitious' Pro-Saddam Kurdish Group Derided

JN2504201492 (Clandestine) Iraqi Kurdistan Radio in Arabic 1600 GMT 25 Apr 92

[Unattributed talk carried within the "They Say and We Say" feature]

[Text] The newspaper (HALQARI-AL-TADAMUN), published in Baghdad by the al-Tadamun publishing house, has carried a bizarre story about the launching of an organization in Kurdistan called Iraq—Homeland for All, the aim of which is to demand the carrying of arms to defend Iraq's unity against agents and [word indistinct] strugglers of the Kurdistan Front, and to (?urge) the Kurds to return to the national ranks under the leadership of Saddam Husayn, who the fictitious organization's statement referred to as the hero of the desert and the eagle of the mountains.

The truth that must be told is that based on our long-standing experience with the regime's venomous media, we have grown used to such tendentious rumors started by security and intelligence agencies via broadcast and print media run by these circles from behind the scenes, which have by now other well-known motives.

The Kurdish people who rally behind the banner of the Kurdistan Front to strive for democracy and freedom are committed to making a success of the proposed parliament, which means a lot to them. Is there a need for such organizations to be represented, which [word indistinct] following Saddam who has decimated half of the Kurds and clamped an unfair economic and administrative embargo on the remaining half?

It seems that the idea of carrying arms and going to battle still haunts the regime's minions, as UN inspection teams destroy dozens of rockets each day and cost the Iraqi economy dearly. This is in contrast to the Kurdistan Front's agenda calling for democracy in Iraq and the right to Kurdish self-determination. Let us recall, as an example, a remark once made by a leader of the Kurdish Freedom Movement: Let rifles fall silent and let pens speak out. If nothing else, this observation means that the Kurdistan Front's parties cling to the principles of peace and security and to their determination to spare us the scourges of destructive wars imposed by the regime on the wounded Iraqi people.

And last, what else can we expect from a newspaper that advertises as its editorial staff men who now live in liberated Kurdistan and write for striving Kurdish newspapers and radio stations?

'Udayy Elected Journalists Union Leader

JN2404191092 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 24 Apr 92

[Excerpt] Mr. 'Udayy Saddam Husayn, chairman of the Board of Directors of BABIL, was today elected president of the Journalists Union. The organization opened its conference in Baghdad yesterday, drawing together

more than 700 journalists. Culture and Information Minister Hamid Yusuf Hammadi also attended the conference.

Salah al-Mukhtar and Kamil al-Sharqi had also had their names up for election, but they pulled out of the race after two of their colleagues challenged their candidacies. Delegates to the conference showed their support by applauding when the pullout proposal was announced.

Afterward 'Udayy Saddam Husayn was elected president of the Journalists Union by a unanimous vote of a show of hands in the midst of a storm of warm applause. [passage omitted]

Air Force Commander Notes Defensive Capabilities

JN2604103992 Baghdad ALIF BA' in Arabic 22 Apr 92 pp 6,7

[Interview with Staff Pilot Lieutenant General Muzahim Sa'b Hasan, commander of the Air Force and air defenses, by Suhayr 'Abd-al-Wahid on the 61st anniversary of the founding of the Air Force and the air defenses; date and place not given]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] ['Abd-al-Wahid] What about the Iraqi Air Force's capabilities in the event of an Iranian air attack, like the recent one, and is the recent Iranian operation against Iraq considered to be a continuation of the chapter of treachery and treason?

[Hasan] After the chapter of treachery and treason ended with the defeat of the traitors who were recruited by Iran, the Iranian regime did not stop at this point but rather planned to carry out a cowardly operation at the time and in the place it believed would surprise our Air Force. The Iranian regime exploited the restrictions imposed by the states of aggression on the use of the Air Force. Our air defenses, however, were lying in wait for them, shattered all their dreams, and defeated them. They were frightened and left one of their destroyed planes on the battlefield. We believe that there are many reasons behind this operation, the foremost of which is to improve the Iranian ruler's deteriorating situation inside Iran. If a battle takes place, the Air Force is capable of protecting Iraq's skies, of inflicting double in retaliation, and of teaching the enemies a lesson as it did in al-Qadisiyah [the war with Iran]. [passage omitted]

Minister Views Food Supplies in Autonomous Region

JN2404170892 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 24 Apr 92

[Text] Muhammad Mahdi Salih, trade minister; Ahmad Baha'-al-Din, Legislative Council head; and 'Abd-al-Karim al-Barzanji, head of the Executive Council of Autonomous Kurdistan, have discussed the flow of food supplies and their timely delivery to middlemen and the public through the use of ration cards.

During the meeting, which was also attended by the secretary generals of the autonomous administrations and other officials, the minister emphasized that provisions, in terms of quality and quantity, should be sent to the region on the basis of the ration cards. The minister discussed the ministry's procedures to make a success of the campaign to market wheat and barley crops from the current season to the [word indistinct] centers in the district, in addition to opening new delivery centers.

Positions, Developments at Peace Talks Previewed

Syria To Be Offered Territories for Peace

TA2604101692 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 26 Apr 92 pp 1, 8

[Report by Moti Bassok, U.S.-based correspondent Qeren Neubach, and Pinhas 'Inbari]

[Excerpts] Israel will offer the Syrians a formula of territories as a function of peace [shtahim kefunqtzya shel hashalom]—meaning, the greater Syria's willingness to give Israel more true peace, the more territory Israel will be willing to give Syria. In any event, Israel does not intend to get off the Golan Heights. A senior source at the Prime Minister's Office, who reported this, added that the talks opening in Washington tomorrow will deal with issues of substance because the discussion of procedural issues was concluded during the past four rounds of talks.

If the talks are held in a businesslike manner, Israel intends to offer the Palestinians municipal elections in the territories—and elections to the autonomy council later, if the first elections prove successful. In the previous rounds of talks, Israel made it clear to Lebanon that it has no territorial demands of it.

The heads of the Israeli delegation to the Washington peace talks will make a last-minute attempt to persuade the United States to change the wording of the invitations to the multilateral talks, scheduled for May, so as not to allow the Palestinians to include figures from the diaspora in their delegations.

A senior political source last night said that the United States has not yet issued the invitations to the multilateral talks—despite Margaret Tutwiler's announcement last Wednesday—because it hopes to convince Jerusalem to accept its position in talks with the heads of the Israeli delegations. The source expressed pessimism in this regard, because the United States has already notified Faysal al-Husayni and the heads of the Palestinian delegation that it will agree to the participation of Palestinians from the diaspora in two of the multilateral talks committees—on refugees and on regional economic development. According to the source, another reason for the pessimism is that the heads of the Israeli delegations are arriving in Washington with very strict instructions regarding the participation of Palestinian diaspora representatives in the committees. Israel has reiterated that it will accept no violation of the agreements made before the Madrid conference started the peace process, and that it will not attend committees that include representatives of the Palestinian diaspora. That position was made clear to U.S. Ambassador William Harrop on Passover eve, in a meeting in Jerusalem with Eytan Bentzur, the assistant director general of the Foreign Ministry. [passage omitted]

Binyamin Netanyahu, deputy minister at the Prime Minister's Office, is part of the delegation to Washington. The United States will take advantage of the fact that Netanyahu, the cabinet secretary, and the directors general of the Prime Minister's Office and the Foreign Ministry will all be in Washington to try iron out the differences regarding the multilateral process. [passage omitted]

Over the weekend, displeasure was expressed in Israel at the fact that the United States has allowed four senior PLO members to come to Washington and act as advisers to the Palestinian delegation. A political source at the prime minister's bureau has claimed that that contradicts the spirit of the understandings and agreements between Israel and the United States. Israel, he said, will find a way to convey its displeasure to Washington. [passage omitted]

Shamir Briefs Talks Delegates

TA2304194192 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1700 GMT 23 Apr 92

[Excerpts] Today Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir briefed some of the heads of delegations to the direct peace negotiations, prior to the resumption of talks on Monday. The delegation will fly to Washington on Sunday aboard a special plane.

Our political correspondent Gadi Sukenik reports that the delegations' efforts will focus on foiling Arab attempts to break the talks on the eve of the Knesset elections.

Jerusalem political circles are meanwhile waiting anxiously for the invitations to next month's multilateral talks, which the United States and Russia are expected to send out tonight. The wording of the invitations has not been made public, but if Palestinian delegates not residing in Israel or the territories are invited to these talks, Israel will boycott them.

The Palestinian delegates to the Washington talks left Jerusalem this morning en route to consultations in Amman and later to the United States. Our correspondent in the territories Amir Hay reports:

Disagreements became apparent this morning as members of the Palestinian delegation convened at Faysal al-Husayni's home prior to their departure for Jordan. The controversy revolved mainly around the question of whether Israel's proposal to hold regional elections should be discussed in Washington or whether the Palestinians should adhere to their official stand whereby the only proposal to be discussed is the plan for elections to the autonomy council. [passage omitted]

Next week the Palestinians intend to amplify the PLO's part in the process and even tighten their overt contacts with the PLO. They will do so through the strategic council that will be headed by Nabil Sha'th, chairman of the PLO political department. [passage omitted]

Palestinian Delegate Barred

TA2404131792 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1300 GMT 24 Apr 92

[Text] Israel did not allow Muhammad al-Hurani, member of the Palestinian delegation to the peace talks, to leave for Amman en route to Washington. Al-Hurani, a 31-year-old Hebron resident, was stopped on Allenby Bridge and, according to him, he was given no reason as to why he may not continue with his trip.

The Defense Ministry has reported that al-Hurani had already been detained several times for his activity in the PLO. The ministry added that even after he had been released from detention last month, al-Hurani continued with his activity.

Delegation Head on Upcoming Talks

TA2504181192 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Arabic 1630 GMT 25 Apr 92

[Interview with Dr. Yosef Hadas, head of the Israeli delegation to the bilateral talks with the Lebanese, by political correspondent Shlomo Ganor, in the studio; date not given—recorded in Hebrew with Arabic subtitles]

[Text] [Ganor] Dr. Hadas, what will be the highlight of the round of talks scheduled to begin on Monday in Washington?

[Hadas] The three Israeli delegations are leaving for Washington with a fervent wish to promote the talks and get down to the substance of the discussions between us and our neighbors. Moreover, this will be the last round of talks held in Washington because, as you know, the next one will be held in Rome.

[Ganor] Will Israel propose to hold elections in the territories in the course of this round of talks?

[Hadas] Elections are not a new idea. The national unity government proposed it in May 1989, and it was rejected by the Arabs and the Palestinians for their own reasons; among other things, because Arabs outside the territories feared the emergence of a self-sufficient local leadership that would conduct talks with Israel over their future.

We are open to suggestions. We will check them out and make proposals accordingly. Unlike our neighbors, we do not intend to negotiate on the basis of slogans. As I said, we mean to get to the substance.

[Ganor] Will we definitely propose a plan for elections?

[Hadas] I repeat: In the event that the other side is prepared to talk about it, we will definitely raise ideas concerning the representation of the Palestinian population with their representatives sitting around the negotiating table with us.

[Ganor] Will you propose municipal elections or elections to the autonomy council?

[Hadas] We will see how the deliberations proceed. I will not disclose here what we are going to propose to the other side.

[Ganor] Arab circles are skeptical about the chances of the upcoming round of talks and say that the shadow of the Israeli elections hovers over them. What are Israel's expectations?

[Hadas] The entire peace process began before we knew that there were going to be elections in Israel. The problem is that the other side is afraid of making progress and of starting to discuss substance. To wit, at the end of the last round of talks in Washington, the secretary of state, the State Department's spokesman, and other officials criticized the position presented by the Arab delegations, including the Palestinian members of the joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation, and said that their approach had not been sufficiently constructive. In contrast, the Israeli approach was lauded.

[Ganor] The United States has granted entry visas to four PLO representatives who will closely follow the talks. How does Jerusalem regard this move?

[Hadas] As far as I know, the United States keeps telling us that it does not plan to hold formal negotiations or contacts with the PLO. Although it did in the past, I hope the United States will stick to this position. We trust it will keep its word and will not engage in contacts with the PLO. We find it satisfactory, although it is not the best we could wish for. I think this may encourage the Palestinians and others to make progress on the peace talks, seeing that up until now the PLO has hindered rather than helped along the process.

[Ganor] Should this move be regarded as a change in the U.S. position vis-a-vis the PLO following the suspension of their dialogue two years ago?

[Hadas] No. As I said, the Americans reiterate that they do not plan to conduct negotiations or contacts with the PLO or to recognize the PLO as such.

[Ganor] Sir, what is the Israeli position concerning the possible invitation of the Palestinian representatives from outside the territories to take part in the working committees of the multilateral talks?

[Hadas] We are opposed to it, and we have explicitly said as much. We notified our colleagues in the State Department about our position, and we made it clear to them that they must adhere to the formula set out in Madrid which enabled the beginning of the peace process; in other words, that we will negotiate with representatives of the population that lives next to us, whether in the bilateral or in the multilateral talks. Allow me to point out that in the letters of invitation to the Madrid conference signed by Secretary of State Baker and Boris Pankin, the Soviet foreign minister at the time, explicitly stated who the Palestinian representatives to the talks would be.

[Ganor] And if invitations nevertheless are issued to Palestinians from outside the territories, will Israel report to the meetings of the working committees?

[Hadas] Israel does not plan to sit at the same table in any forum whatsoever with representatives from outside the territories.

Shamir Hopes To 'Attain Peace, Not Withdraw'

TA2604170992 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1600 GMT 26 Apr 92

[Text] Israel wants peace, and I would not like to be in the shoes of anybody trying to hurt Israel, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir stated this evening.

[Begin recording] [Shamir] Each round of talks is yet another brick in the edifice of peace. Peace is a prolonged process and cannot be attained overnight, within a day or a night. It takes time. However, the more we keep at it, the closer we get to peace.

[Unidentified correspondent] The Syrian president has said that there will be no peace if there is no withdrawal from the territories.

[Shamir] Well, he speaks his mind and we speak ours. God willing, we will both attain peace and not withdraw. [end recording]

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 1600 GMT on 26 April notes that Shamir said in today's cabinet session that "Syria apparently wants to change its attitude toward its Jewish citizens in a bid to take world public opinion into consideration." The prime minister added that "the two Jewish Su'ayd brothers were released from a Syrian prison as a result of outside pressure," and that "every now and then in meetings in Washington Israeli officials raise the plight of Syria's Jews."]

Damascus' New Policy on Travel of Jews Viewed

JN2604173792 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Arabic 1335 GMT 26 Apr 92

["Analysis and Comment" by 'Ezra Shirazi]

[Text] Press reports indicate that the Syrian Government has decided to allow members of the Jewish community to leave Syria freely in the interest of family reunions. This, naturally, is welcome news for what remains of a Jewish community that has made a longstanding contribution to the country's civilization and has deep roots in its history. It is no exaggeration to say that these reports have also been greeted with satisfaction by advocates of fundamental human rights worldwide and the new world order that is pursuing a better future for mankind.

If the Syrian regime, led by al-Asad, takes such action and follows it through, it will have acted in step with this new world order and will have made a positive contribution to a definition of its outlines. The Syrian regime will not only earn respect, but it will also have done something to improve its image with the public opinion of the free civilized world. Looked at from another angle, the Syrian Government's decision to scrap the restrictions banning Syrian Jews from travelling abroad should be welcome news for all sectors of the Syrian people, since it may signal the beginning of a shift toward a more liberal and democratic regime that assures basic rights for all Syrians, cutting across religious denominations and political persuasions.

If it is possible for one to be overly optimistic, one can hope that this Syrian Government decision will open the way for all other Arab regimes to walk the path of true liberalism and democracy, so that they may come to respect the fundamental rights of their nationals and place the human being at the top of the scale of their values.

Egypt Seizes Israeli Fishing Boat

TA2604045392 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0400 GMT 26 Apr 92

[Text] Neither Israel nor Egypt have officially reacted to yesterday's seizing by Egyptian authorities of an Israeli fishing boat. The boat was stopped off Egyptian shores in the Red Sea, in an area Egypt says is natural reserve waters. The boat's passengers, five Israelis and a German couple, were released. The boat, however, remains in Egyptian hands. The incident was reported in the Cairo newspaper AL-AHRAM. The paper said the name of the Israeli boat was the Saint Ritz.

Boat on 'Private Sailing Trip'

TA2604133592 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1200 GMT 26 Apr 92

[Text] The fishing boat St. Ritz, detained by the Egyptians after entering Egyptian coastal waters, is a foreign vessel flying a foreign flag and is not registered in Israel, our correspondent Haviva Roger was told. It seems that the vessel was on a private sailing trip and was not connected in any way with Israeli fishing.

Yeltsin Military Adviser on 'Private' Visit

TA2604131792 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 26 Apr 92 p 7

[Report by Arye Egozi]

[Excerpts] "Military cooperation between Russia and any country, including Israel, is possible if that country complies with UN resolutions." This was the opinion of Colonel General Dmitriy Volkogonov, military adviser to Russian President Boris Yeltsin, who is currently visiting Israel. [passage omitted]

When asked to describe his job exactly, Volkogonov said: "I give Yeltsin advice. He later decides whether or not to take it."

Volkogonov asserted he has no plans to meet with defense establishment figures in Israel. "This is a completely private visit. I have no additional meetings with anybody," he said.

The colonel general and his wife will spend five days in Israel, during which he will lecture at Tel Aviv University. Volkogonov is one of the few individuals who have had the opportunity to peruse secret official documents, including Stalin's personal papers.

El Al Purchase of Pratt-Whitney Engines Barred

TA2604141392 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 26 Apr 92 p 15

[Report by Arye Egozi]

[Text] Transportation Minister Moshe Qatzav has forbidden El Al to sign an agreement to purchase engines for its new Boeing 747's as long as the manufacturer, Pratt and Whitney, does not make a commitment to continue maintenance work on engines at Israel Aircraft Industries [IAI].

Following an extensive investigation, El Al decided to purchase Pratt and Whitney engines for the Boeing 747-400's it bought. It then learned, however, that the U.S. company is considering performing maintenance on its engines at its own installations in the United States and will not provide work for IAI. Qatzav's order came in the wake of that information.

IDF Denies Forming New Outpost in South Lebanon

TA2604114992 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew 26 Apr 92 p 5

[Report by Menahem Horowitz and REUTER]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] "The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] has set up a new post near the village of al-Rayhan, north of Marj 'Uyun, on the border of the security zone. The security zone has thus been expanded by approximately four kilometers." This report was published over the weekend by Beirut newspapers. Lebanese sources confirmed the veracity of the report. The IDF spokesman, however, denied it.

According to the papers, the justification given by the IDF for establishing the post was the great activity of Hizballah in the area and the rise in the number of attacks against the IDF and the SLA [South Lebanese Army] in the eastern sector. [passage omitted]

Probe—Soldiers Acted 'Properly' in Shootings

TA2504185492 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1700 GMT 25 Apr 92

[Text] The officer appointed to probe the incidents in the village of Dura earlier this week has submitted his findings to Major General Dani Yatom, commander of the Central Command.

According to the Army spokesman, the officer determined that the soldiers operated properly and in accordance with standing orders, both when dealing with the masked men and with a local villager who was the host of the Elimelekh family from Moshav Luzit. The officer states that the couple's behavior led to an inaccurate and exaggerated description of the real proportions of the incident and that there were significant discrepancies between the Elimelekhs' version and that of their host. The probing officer spoke with the host and with the Elimelekhs and debriefed one of the masked men who was wounded in the incident and the soldiers who were involved in both incidents in the village.

Our correspondent Moti Amir points out that the Elimelekhs testified earlier this week that they had seen the Israeli soldiers shoot at the masked men without first warning them, while their host lodged a complaint with the police that he had been beaten up by an Israeli soldier.

IDF Units Kill 28 'Wanted Men' in 2 Months

TA2604103692 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew 26 Apr 92 p 4

[Report by Alex Fishman]

[Text] Twenty-eight wanted men have been killed over the past two months in the course of IDF [Israel Defense Forces] initiated operations in the territories, after the Army eased the rules of engagement regarding wanted individuals. A senior IDF source gave this figure to HADASHOT last night. The new rules of engagement apply only to those special units engaged in initiated operations.

The source asserted that the easing of regulations for opening fire has had a marked effect in the field. Growing numbers of wanted men are turning themselves in voluntarily, and there has been a change in the level of activity of the armed gangs.

Shoot-To-Kill Policy To 'Boomerang'

TA2604143092 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 26 Apr 92 p B1

[Commentary by Gid'on Levi: "Death Without Trial"]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] Dozens of wanted men have been shot dead in the past few months by the Duvdevan and Shimshon undercover units operating in the territories. With the change in the rules of engagement, soldiers are allowed to kill any armed Arab. They usually fire from close range and shoot to kill. They never just wound them. True, they do not shoot passers-by at random; they usually know who the target is—but does that really matter?

Although the old public debate is still raging about applying capital punishment to terrorists, Israeli soldiers are already carrying out what the extreme right wing

never dreamed of asking: the death sentence for terrorists, outside the law and without trial. This is the only real meaning of what the Army has been doing in the past few weeks in the territories, and there is no way to gloss it over. [passage omitted]

Indeed, the hands of some of the wanted men were tainted with blood, mainly that of Palestinian collaborators. Most of them were violent men whose terror campaign had to come to an end.

But not by any means. Even the most vicious criminals are not captured in hunting expeditions such as the one currently under way in the territories, however effective it may be. Most of them could have been easily detained and brought to trial. In extreme cases, they could have been shot without being killed. However, the intention dictated from above is altogether different: to kill. There have been some cases of mistaken identity in the course of this shooting spree, described by Knesset Member Yosi Sarid in a session of the Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee as being worse than a hunting expedition, since the latter at least has certain rules.

The data are not altogether consistent. The Army says 13 wanted men have been shot dead in the last three months, and Betzelem claims 17 Palestinians have been shot by undercover troops (some of them by mistake) in the first three months of 1992. The Palestinians, however, argue that 18 were killed from January to March 1992 and that 97 have been killed since 1988, the year the undercover units began shooting. In any event, the number of shooting incidents has increased.

The Army apparently has not given much thought to the legality of the shooting, the moral repercussions of these acts on soldiers in elite units, and the practical effects on the course of the intifadah. Everything is done properly and in accordance with procedures and orders, and the results definitely point to a drop in acts of violence, but this policy will ultimately boomerang. People who have nothing to anticipate other than being killed in an ambush by Duvdevan troops will move on to desperate actions. [passage omitted]

Upgraded Saar-4 Boats To Include Baraq Missiles

TA2604121692 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 26 Apr 92 p 3

[Report by Avi Bnayahu]

[Text] Israeli Navy Saar-4 missile boats will be thoroughly converted to a Saar-4.5 type at the Israel Shipyards in Haifa to improve their operational ability. Senior Navy sources have reported that the conversion of a single boat will cost some $22 million. The boats' decks will be lengthened, and they will be equipped with sea-to-sea Baraq missile launchers, new electronic warfare systems, advanced missile-detecting radars, and helicopter landing pads. According to the Navy work plan, the funds for the conversion will be budgeted every 18 months.

The Navy commander has appointed a special team to oversee the conversion of the missile boats and to prepare their integration into the new lineup of missile boats toward the middle of the next decade, after the three new Saar-5 missile boats, built in the United States, join the Navy.

Conversion of other missile boats will be done by the Navy Shipyards in Haifa, and not by the Israel Shipyards. Conversion at the Navy Shipyards appears to be cheaper.

All the missile boats will be equipped with Baraq launchers and missiles. Baraq is an advanced Israeli missile used to intercept ballistic missiles at sea. The first trial operational firing of a Baraq missile at a low-flying simulated missile is to be held soon.

1 Killed, 20 Hurt as Troops Fire on Hamas Rally

TA2504194592 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1900 GMT 25 Apr 92

[Text] Twenty inhabitants of Gaza were wounded this evening by gunfire as soldiers dispersed a mass demonstration of Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] followers in the al-Shaykh Radwan neighborhood. They were treated in hospitals in the city and sent home. [Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew at 1815 GMT on 25 April notes that this is the casualty toll given by official Army sources, whereas Palestinian sources put the number at "twice as many."] Seventy-year-old Fatma al-Hawaja died in the same incident. According to locals, tear gas infiltrated her house. Our correspondent Moti Amir points out that the Army is looking into the report.

Six other people were wounded today by gunfire in the Gaza Strip, as soldiers dispersed riots. Seven firebombs were thrown today at Army troops in Rafah and in Dayr al-Balah. Nobody was hurt and no damage was caused.

Fourteen-year-old Ahmad 'Abushi was stabbed to death in Janin. His body was later kidnapped from a hospital. Samaria District policemen are looking into the background. [The same television report notes that "the boy was a member of the local Black Panther squad and was apparently murdered because of a feud between rival factions in the city."]

Commentary on U.S. 'Warning Signals' to Government

NC2604082692 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0630 GMT 26 Apr 92

[Station commentary: "Crocker's Warnings: Political and Economic Mines"]

[Text] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Few days ago, U.S. Ambassador in Lebanon Ryan Crocker sent some direct and indirect warning signals to some officials in the regime and government that pointed to a possible Israeli military operation in the south or western al-Biqa'. Crocker played the same old tune that unless the operations against the Zionist occupiers are stopped the enemy will strike again.

Some officials dealt very seriously with these warnings, or fears as some of the local press have called them. They were gripped by panic and their imaginations ran wild to the extent that they began to talk about a new Israeli invasion as a matter of fact. Crocker's warning also added a new dimension to the drop in the Lebanese pound rate. The amazing thing is that some Lebanese media, especially those controlled by the Lebanese Forces, have raised such a clamor and gave these warnings so much prominence that they scared the citizens, who cannot explain or analyze the background to events, the requisites of the political status, and possible developments. People began to say that a hostile invasion will take place within few days or hours. Some even drew up the charts and lines for the Israeli invasion. This spreading of fear caused a sharp increase in prices, especially for food, in most areas.

It appears that the U.S. ambassador probably wanted to create this clamor and tale in order to pressure some government officials to change their stand on the resistance and to drive a wedge between some officials and Syria, which believes that resistance is an urgent prerequisite to which Lebanon must be committed in order to liberate the territories. Syria also believes that the resistance is a fundamental and useful tool that compels the enemy to withdraw from the south and western al-Biqa'.

It also appears that Crocker wanted to create internal confusion that will further strain the economic and monetary situation, thus adding a political problem that will lead the country to chaos or even to the abyss of collapse. This is because Lebanon cannot tolerate a major political crisis in view of its fragile economic position, especially as this country continues to exist on sedatives and oxygen.

The U.S. ambassador is well aware that the resistance is not deceived or frightened by this scare-mongering, because it is waiting all the time to confront the enemy if he attacks and to defend itself. The U.S. ambassador also is aware that the resistance was created solely for this purpose. But, as usual, this ambassador is trying to create a political earthquake in Lebanon hoping to achieve his goal and that of his government—namely to create a problem between the resistance and the government and therefore rid Israel and Washington of this nightmare that is dealing blows to the Zionist enemy, blows that hurt and are forever expanding.

Let Crocker rest assured that the resistance has become used to these cheap methods and that it is well aware that its enemy is incapable of undertaking a new invasion because he has not rid himself yet of the consequences of the previous invasion. At any rate, the resistance believes that an invasion will speed up the hour of direct combat, will ignite the entire arena against the enemy, and always will incite all the people to resist, repulse the aggression, and strike a blow to the enemy. The Zionists are aware of this outcome and this prevents them from embarking on an invasion, but it will not deter them from committing aggression in other ways. Every resistance fighter in Lebanon is ready.

SLA's Lahd on Resistance, Elections, Syria

NC2504065092 (Clandestine) Voice of the South in Arabic to Lebanon 0530 GMT 25 Apr 92

[Text] In a statement to AFP, Staff Major General Antoine Lahd, commander of the South Lebanese Army [SLA], has stated that Israel will not launch a wide-scale operation against the Islamic Resistance in Lebanon in retaliation for the bombing of the Israeli Embassy in Buenos Aires. But, he added, it would be likely to enlarge the border zone if matters worsen.

In his statement, the SLA commander said that the resistance operations are delaying the Israeli withdrawal from the south because this withdrawal will not be concluded without security arrangements and a peace treaty between Lebanon and Israel.

Maj. Gen. Lahd said: We are part of the state, and if it refuses to hold elections in our region, who will guarantee that elections will be held in Sidon or Tyre, which fall within the range of my guns? Maj. Gen. Lahd pointed out that any elections which occur in the presence of foreign troops, be they Syrians or Israelis, can in no way be free. He said that he would prefer the Syrians to stay on than to hold the elections in their presence, because the Lebanese will succeed in making the Syrian leave one day. The SLA commander said that the objective of holding elections at present aims at giving the Syrians 90 percent of the deputies.

Al-Murr Confers With Syria's Khaddam, Others 25 Apr

NC2604064392 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0615 GMT 26 Apr 92

[Text] Defense Minister Michel al-Murr visited Damascus and held a series of meetings with Syrian officials yesterday. Minister al-Murr had met with Syrian Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam and Chief of Staff General Hikmat al-Shihabi. The talks dealt with the latest developments in Lebanon.

Israel Builds 'Huge' Military Post in Marj 'Uyun

NC2504102692 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1000 GMT 25 Apr 92

[Text] According to reports this morning, Israel has created a huge military post near the Lahd militia's command center in Marj 'Uyun. The post is equipped with advanced radar devices and communications equipment. The post is encircled with barbed wire and earth barriers. A military helicopter airfield has been constructed near the post.

Villages Come Under Israeli Artillery Fire

NC2504173592 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1630 GMT 25 Apr 92

[Text] Israeli occupation troops this afternoon shelled the villages of Jibshit, Shukin, and Zibdin using 155-mm artillery emplacements stationed around al-Mansuri, inside the occupied border zone.

Warplanes Overfly South 26 Apr

NC2704054992 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0415 GMT 27 Apr 92

[Text] Israeli warplanes overflew southern Lebanon, namely in Sidon and adjacent areas, at approximately 2245 last night and fired flares.

Planes Break Sound Barrier Over Beirut

NC2704101392 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0900 GMT 27 Apr 92

[Text] Israeli warplanes broke the sound barrier several times over the capital this morning after having overflown Sidon and Iqlim al-Tuffah several times.

Mock Raids, Reinforcements Noted

NC2604103092 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1000 GMT 26 Apr 92

[Text] In the south, Israeli warplanes carried out mock raids over Sidon and nearby camps today. The Israeli aircraft flew over Sidon and the south at low altitude at 0915.

Meanwhile, tension continues to prevail in the south in the wake of repeated Israeli attacks and fresh reinforcements, particularly in the eastern sector.

Jewish Leader Confirms Freedom To Leave

TA2704043492 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0400 GMT 27 Apr 92

[Text] The head of the Syrian Jewish community, Rabbi Albert Ibrahim Hamra, says that the community has been given a positive verbal answer on the request to allow Jewish families to leave the country. He says he expects written confirmation from the Damascus authorities within four to five days.

In a telephone conversation with Qol Yisra'el's Paris correspondent Gid'on Kouts, Rabbi Hamra said that the community was very pleased with the news, and many families had submitted requests for exit papers. He felt the first papers would be through by next week. Rabbi Hamra also thought that the new regulations would allow families to emigrate without having to leave members behind in Syria.

The rabbi disclosed that during the recent meeting between the community leadership and President al-Asad, several other problems had been raised, and the community was promised that all would be resolved.

Rabbi Hamra said that he himself intended leaving Syria only after all those who wanted to do so could go.

Armenian President Arrives, Meets With al-Asad

JN2504144292 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1415 GMT 25 Apr 92

[Text] At the invitation of His Excellency President Hafiz al- Asad, Armenian President Levon Ter-Petrosyan and his delegation arrived in Damascus at 1415 today on an official three-day visit to the Syrian Arab Republic.

His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad led those who welcomed President Ter-Petrosyan at the airport. Also on hand to receive him on the tarmac were Vice Presidents 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam and Dr. Muhammad Zuhayr Mashariqah, Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi, and Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar'.

His excellency the president later held a meeting with his guest, President Ter-Petrosyan, at Tishrin Palace. The meeting was attended by Vice Presidents 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam and Dr. Muhammad Zuhayr Mashariqah; Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi; Dr. Salim Yasin, deputy prime minister for economic affairs; Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar'; Culture Minister Dr. Najah al-'Attar; Industry Minister Antoine Jubran; Electricity Minister Kamil al-Baba; and the delegation accompanying the Armenian president.

'Satisfaction' With Relations

JN2504195392 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1900 GMT 25 Apr 92

[Text] Damascus, 25 Apr (SANA)—Talks between His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad and Armenian President Levon Ter-Petrosyan began at the People's Palace at 1830 today.

The talks were attended by Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' and Armenian Foreign Minister Raffi Hovannisian.

The talks dealt with international developments and regional situations, as well as bilateral ties and ways of promoting them.

President Ter-Petrosyan expressed the Armenians' high appreciation for Syria, as well as their gratitude and pride in their historical links with Syria and the Arabs.

He paid tribute to Syria's role in the region and its efforts to bring stability and just peace to the region and the world.

President al-Asad expressed satisfaction with the relations between the two countries, and stressed that Syria is determined to pursue its efforts for a just and comprehensive peace in the region.

Dinner Speeches Exchanged

JN2604073892 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0415 GMT 26 Apr 92

[Text] President Hafiz al-Asad delivered a speech last night at a dinner banquet he held in honor of Armenian President Levon Ter-Petrosyan. The president welcomed the guest president. He said that relations between the Syrian Arab people and the Armenian people are deep-rooted, and that we are looking forward to closer relations between the Syrian Arab Republic and the Republic of Armenia.

The president reviewed the fateful challenges faced by our Arab nation. He also talked about the Middle East peace process. He said: We have responded with sincere intentions to the U.S. peace initiative which is based on UN resolutions. He added: Our response to the initiative has been a confirmation of our policy calling of a just, comprehensive peace in the region on the basis of international legitimacy.

The president referred to the peace talks that were held in Madrid in Washington, and which proved to be futile because of the Israeli rulers' intransigence, insistence on placing obstacles to peace, and assertion that to them peace means that the Arabs should agree to surrender to Israel their territories which it has usurped by force.

The president said: We seek peace because we are peace advocates, and because peace is a real interest to us and to our region. However, we stress that peace and the occupation of Arab territories can never converge.

President Levon Ter-Petrosyan delivered a speech at the beginning of which he expressed happiness with being in Syria and Damascus, one of the world's most ancient cities. He said that friendship between the Armenian and Syrian people is as old as history itself. However, relations on the official level were consolidated only a few months ago. He referred to Armenian Foreign Minister Raffi Hovannisian's visit to Syria and Faruq al-Shar's reciprocal visit to Armenia. He indicated that these two visits have laid the foundations of diplomatic relations and bilateral cooperation in the economic and cultural fields.

Referring to President Hafiz al-Asad's desire to visit Armenia, the Armenian president said that this is an indication of the Syrian president's special interest in the Armenian people. He added: Joint destiny and unified stands on important current issues and our Armenian and Syrian Arab peoples' psychological disposition affirm to us the importance of promoting this cooperation on both official and popular levels.

Talks Resume 26 Apr

JN2604133192 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1115 GMT 26 Apr 92

[Text] His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad and Armenian President Levon Ter-Petrosyan and their aides resumed talks at the People's Palace at 1100 today. Taking in part in the talks for Syria were Vice Presidents 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam and Muhammad Zuhayr Mashariqah, Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi, Deputy Prime Minister for Economic Affairs Dr. Salim Yasin, Culture Minister Dr. Najah al-'Attar, Industry Minister Antoine Jubran, and Electricity Minister Kamil al-Baba. For Armenia, the talks were attended by the official delegation accompanying the president on his visit to Syria.

The presidents were briefed on the talks held by the Syrian and Armenian ministers. The sides decided to set up a permanent Syrian- Armenian followup committee and deepen their scientific, cultural, and economic cooperation.

SANA-ARMENPRES Agreement Signed

JN2604175092 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1445 GMT 26 Apr 92

[Text] Damascus, 26 Apr (SANA)—A media cooperation agreement between SANA and the Armenian news agency, ARMEPRES, was signed here today. The agreement was signed by SANA Director General Fayiz al-Sa'igh and by ARMENPRES Director General Kifork Ovannisian [name as received], who is currently visiting Damascus with the delegation accompanying Armenian President Levon Ter-Petrosyan.

The agreement stipulates the establishment of relations between the two news agencies on the basis of an equal media exchange and in light of the existing friendly relations, good neighborliness, and historic cultural relations between the two countries, as each country has the desire to acquaint itself with the social, political, and cultural life in the other country.

Under the agreement, the two news agencies pledge to transfer the exchanged materials to other news agencies and to use them to promote relations between Syria and Armenia.

The initial bases of this agreement were laid down during the SANA director general's recent visit to Armenia as part of the delegation accompanying Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar'.

Ter-Petrosyan Tours Aleppo

JN2704104592 Damascus SANA in Arabic 0745 GMT 27 Apr 92

[Text] Damascus, 27 Apr (SANA)—Armenian President Levon Ter-Petrosyan and his delegation arrived in Aleppo yesterday evening.

Dr. Muhammad Zuhayr Mashariqah, the vice president, and Nasir Qaddur, the minister of state for foreign affairs, accompanied the distinguished guest during his visit.

President Levon Ter-Petrosyan and Dr. Mashariqah left for the Armenian guest's headquarters in an official motorcade.

Aleppo Governor Muhammad Mawalidi hosted a dinner in honor of President Levon Ter-Petrosyan. Dr. Muhammad Zuhayr Mashariqah, the vice president, Nasir Qaddur, the minister of state for foreign affairs, and comrades Mahmud Nuri Kallu, Aleppo Ba'ath Party branch secretary in Aleppo, the president of Aleppo University, the chief of police, and high-ranking governorate officials and Armenian clergymen attended the dinner.

Afghanistan

Reportage on Official Statements, Announcements

Mojaddedi Announces Council Taking Charge

BK2604104292 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1000 GMT 26 Apr 92

[Text] The president-designate of the Islamic State of Afghanistan, Sebghatollah Mojaddedi, has announced that the members of the ruling council set up last Friday [24 April] will take up the reins of government in Kabul tomorrow. He announced this decision in an interview with Radio Pakistan's representative in Peshawar today. He added that the members of the council are leaving for Kabul today to join those who have already reached the Afghan capital. On the priorities of his government, he said first of all we will protect the life and properties of the people, bring an end to the violence in Afghanistan at any cost, and ensure peace there.

Mojaddedi Announces General Amnesty

BK2504143992 Lahore THE NATION (Islamabad THE NATION Supplement) in English 25 Apr 92 pp I, IV

[From Shamim Shahid]

[Text] Peshawar—Prof. Sebghatollah Mojaddedi, leader of the 50-member Commission of the Mojahedin interim government, has announced general amnesty for Afghan Government troops, soldiers, and officers.

Expressing his views at a press conference on Friday night, Prof. Mojaddedi hoped that Afghan Mojahedin commanders will observe security in their areas. He called upon the friendly countries to provide food assistance to Afghan Mojahedin as they had experienced severe difficulties and most of the areas were facing a starvation-like situation.

Prof. Mojaddedi lauded efforts of Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, Iran, and other friendly countries with whose financial and arms support they had achieved their objectives. He also praised the United Nations for its whole-hearted support [to] them.

He further said that he was confident that friendly countries, especially Pakistan, Iran, and Saudi Arabia, will formally recognise their government. He also suggested to the United Nations to transfer Afghanistan's seat to the Mojahedin government.

He added that Afghanistan was destroyed and the Afghan people could not reconstruct it. He called upon the world to support the Afghans in their efforts for restoration of a peaceful atmosphere in their country as well as in reconstruction and rebuilding process of their motherland.

Just before midnight on Friday, the Afghan leaders helped by Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif announced at a press conference that all of them had reached a decision about the future of their motherland. The formula accepted by the leading Afghan resistance leaders comprises a number of phases.

The press conference was attended by leaders and deputies [of] seven parties. They included Prof. Mojaddedi of Afghan National Liberation Front, Prof. Rabbani of Jam'iyat-e Eslami, Prof Rasul Sayyaf of Etehad-e Eslami, Mowlawi Mohammad Nabi of Harakat-e Eslami, Pir Seyyed Ahmad Gilani of National Islamic Front, Mowlawi Najamuddin of Hezb-e Eslami (Khales), and Mr. Jabraili of Showra-e Etelaf. Engineer Qotboddin of Hezb-e Eslami (Hekmatyar) and represeatatives of Hezb-e Wahdat were not present.

Briefing the newsmen, Prof. Rasul Sayyaf, flanked by his colleagues, said that during the first phase of the accord a 50-member delegation under the leadership of Prof. Mojaddedi will leave for Kabul within two days for getting power from the collapsed regime in Kabul. He said that the 50-member commission will comprise 30 field commanders representing various jehad groups, ten ulema [religious scholars], and 10 nominees of the resistance groups.

The said commission, Prof. Sayyaf, who along with his resistance colleagues was addressing the press conference under a big portrait of Quaid-i-Azam Mohammad Ali Jinnah, told newsmen, will get power from the regime in Kabul and will run affairs of the country for a period of two months. After completion of two months tenure of the said commission, it could be converted into an Islamic government to be formed under the leadership of Prof. Borhanoddin Rabbani.

Prof. Sayyaf said that after two months an Islamic government will be formed. The government will also be a cabinet in which a nominee of Hezb-e Eslami (Hekmatyar) will be prime minister. He said that it was decided that the resistance group leaders will not be candidates for prime ministership or other ministerial posts.

From among the ministers, the Prime Minister will have three deputies, Prof. Sayyaf said, and added that they will also be nominees of the respective parties. The deputies posts will go to Hezb-e Eslami (Khales), Etehad-e Eslami and National Islamic Front of Pir Seyyed Ahmad Gilani. Among the ministerial posts, he added, Defence Ministry will go to Jam'iyat-e Eslami of Prof. Rabbani, Interior Affairs to Etehad-e Eslami, Foreign Ministry to NIFA [National Islamic Front of Afghanistan] of Pir Gilani, Education Ministry will go to Hezb-e Eslami of Mowlawi Yunes Khales, and Justice, Law and Parliamentary Affairs will go to Harakat-e Eslami of Mowlawi Mohammad Nabi. The remaining ministerial posts will be distributed later on among the jehad forces, he remarked.

Prof. Sayyaf further said that in the meantime the interim government of Prof. Rabbani will make arrangements for a meeting of the grand Islamic showra or council, to be comprised of several hundred people. The said

showra will decide about the future of the government and will elect another government for a period of one year. The said government will arrange general elections in its tenure for transfering power to an elected government.

Prof. Rasul Sayyaf, while disclosing details of the accord, said that his Deputy, Engineer Ahmad Shah, will be Deputy Prime Minister and Interior Minister in the Cabinet of Prof. Rabbani which will take power in Kabul after two months. Prof. Rabbani, who was also present, said that eminent commander Ahmad Shah Mas'ud will be the Defence Minister of his Cabinet.

Prof. Rasul Sayyaf said that the Afghan Islamic government will revise the Islamic institutions in Kabul and will enforce Islamic system in Afghanistan. He said that those regime forces who would request for amnesty would be given general amnesty. He was confident that Muslim countries who extended their whole-hearted support to the Afghan Mojahedin during the last 13 years will support the present government.

It was learnt that during the meeting of Afghan leaders with Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif representatives of Hezb-e Eslami (Hekmatyar) and Mr Mohseni of Hezb-e Wahdat while rejecting the accord staged a walkout from the meeting as a mark of protest.

Prof. Sayyaf denied the impression that Hezb-e Eslami of Golboddin Hekmatyar was not consulted on the accord.

Answering a question at the Governor House press conference, he said that Engineer Qotboddin Hilal, Deputy of Hekmatyar, was present at the Friday meetings. He said that after finalising the accord, he had asked for some time to discuss the accord with his party leaders.

Referring to Asef Mohseni's Hezbe-e Wahdat representation in the accord, Prof. Sayyaf said that Hezb-e Wahdat leaders were also present in the negotiations process and later in finalising of the agreement. He said that both Hezb-e Eslami of Hekmatyar and Hezb-e Wahdat of Mohseni will join the agreement after holding consultations with their leaders and members. He also assured due representation to other small independent groups based in Peshawar.

When asked about the future of the fomer Afghan President Dr. Najib, Prof Sayyaf said that a desision in this connection would rest with the Afghan nation.

About the deadline of Engineer Golboddin Hekmatyar (he had threatened launching of an attack on Kabul by April 26), Prof. Sebghatollah Mojaddedi said that now the deadline had lapsed as they had succeeded in the formation of their interim Islamic government. He hoped that Hekmatyar will honor the decision of their colleagues.

Mas'ud Named Defense Minister in Council

LD2504173392 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Dari 1600 GMT 25 Apr 92

[Text] Dear compatriots. Now Esteemed Dr. Najibollah Mojadeddi, member of the commission for the security of Kabul, reads the Pashto version of the statement of the Jihad Leadership Council's statement.

[Mojadeddi, in Pashto] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Praise to God and to Mohammad, his messenger.

Statement number one of the Jihad Leadership Council. Today, 25 April, the Jihad Leadership Council held an extraordinary meeting and resolved that all mojahedin and armed forces are instructed to obey the orders of commission for the security and administration of Kabul city, which includes esteemed brother Dr. Najibollah Mojaddedi, Esteemed General Rahim Wardak, Esteemed Commander 'Abdol Haq, Esteemed Commander Mowlawi Sedeqollah, esteemed Commander Haji Sher Alam, and Esteemed brother Commander Ahmad Shah Mas'ud, minister of defense of the Islamic Government, for ensuring security in the city of Kabul and for the protection of the lives, property, and dignity of its residents, to ensure the security of the strategic places and centers and that they should not disobey their orders.

It is emphasized that esteemed brother Ahmad Shah Mas'ud should immediately start his work.

[Signed] Hazrat Sebghatollah Mojaddedi, president of the Islamic State of Afghanistan.

Wakil—Council 'Welcome' in Kabul

LD2504193892 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 25 Apr 92

[Text] 'Abdol Wakil, minister of foreign affairs of the Republic of Afghanistan, addressed a news conference, which was arranged at Storay Palace in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and spoke to journalists about the development of the situation and the formation of the (?51-man) council and the resolution of mojahedin in Peshawar.

At the beginning of the conference, the minister of foreign affairs said: we come to know through mass media that mojahedin based in Peshawar [words indistinct] eventually have decided to form a 51-man council, which will come very soon to Kabul. The state of the Republic of Afghanistan, the Homeland Party, and the people of Afghanstan are happy that the mojahedin eventually arrived at this decision and they welcome it. We are ready to offer any kind of cooperation in connection with the joint administration. We cordially ask all related sides, the armed forces, and the mojahed brothers who are around the city of Kabul to prevent any military [word indistinct] and maintain their perseverence [words indistinct].

The situation now across the country is normal, and a joint administration was earlier set up in a peaceful atmosphere [as heard]. We hope that it will be realized with a similar spirit in Kabul as well, and, a council will come to Kabul. The leadership of the state of the Republic of Afghanistan is looking forward to welcoming it. He added: We ask all civilian and military personnel of the state and the faithful and noble people of Kabul to [words indistinct] for ensuring peace, and to play their role, within their capability, for maintaining law and order.

Later, the minister of foreign affairs answered journalists' questions. The reportage of the conference will be broadcast this evening at 2100 [1730 GMT].

Security Commission Appeals for Order

LD2504195192 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1800 GMT 25 Apr 92

[Text] Kabul City's Security Commission reports in the name of the Islamic State of Afghanistan. All mojahedin of jehad formations and personnel of the armed forces who are stationed around Kabul are instructed to maintain order in Kabul and environs. Units of the armed forces [words indistinct] will discharge their national and Islamic duties with seriousness under the leadership of Kabul City's Security Commission to ensure peace in Kabul City and environs.

Kabul City's Security Commission assures all diplomats, foreign representations, and foreign citizens that the jihad forces and armed forces guarantee their security.

The residents of Kabul City and environs are asked to help the jehad forces and armed forces for immediate restoration of peace and security. If the orders of Kabul City's Security Commission are violated, this should be reported to Kabul City's Security Commission and Security Council. Kabul City's Security Commission declared [words indistinct].

Armed Forces Told To Back Mas'ud

LD2504225692 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Dari 1800 GMT 25 Apr 92

[Statement by General Mohammad Nabi 'Azimi, deputy defense minister and Kabul Garrison commander, in Kabul on 25 April—live or recorded]

[Text] In the name of God the compassionate, the merciful. On behalf of all the Armed Forces, I welcome the coming into being of the Islamic State of Afghanistan and assure the Islamic State of Afghanistan, the Esteemed Hazrat Sebghatollah Mojadeddi, and the Kabul City's Security Commission that the Armed Forces, under the leadership of Kabul City's Security Commission, shall fulfill their important duties side by side with the jehadi forces to quickly ensure peace and security in the city of Kabul and throughout the country. Therefore, all personnel of the armed forces, soldiers, noncommissioned officers, officers, and generals are being instructed to discharge their duties in coordination and harmony with the jehad forces, under the leadership of Kabul City's Security Commission and by orders of esteemed Engineer Ahmad Shah Mas'ud, minister of defense of the Islamic State of Afghanistan.

All personnel of the Armed Forces are reassured that the Islamic State of Afghanistan and Kabul City's Security Commission guarantee their dignity, honor, and status. In these difficult times of the Afghan history, all armed forces, homeland guards, tribal forces, militia, and all Muslim people of Afghanistan are asked, for the sake of the highest interests of Afghanistan, to safeguard the independence, national sovereignty, and territorial integrity of the country.

We are fully confident that at God's will and with reliance on the will of the brave and free Afghan nation, peace and security will be ensured in shortest possible time throughout the country.

Success comes from God.

State Employees Asked To Return to Work

LD2604055592 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 0413 GMT 26 Apr 92

[Announcement by the Kabul city security commission]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate: Soldiers and officers of the armed forces, employees of state institutions, and (?students), peace be upon you. Thanks be to God, all those [word indistinct] and seditious elements, who (?with total disregard) of the sacred religion of Islam and the objectives of the Islamic revolution, are [word indistinct] (?engaged in) killing the innocent citizens of Kabul and [words indistinct], will be (?crushed) with the grace of Almighty God by various jehadi forces with the cooperation of the armed forces under the command of Kabul city security commission. The esteemed residents of Kabul are assured that security is in force all over the country, particularly in Kabul city. All those terrorist groups and individuals who engage in disrupting security [words indistinct] of the Islamic government of mojahedin is punishable by death in accordance with a (?decree) by esteemed religious scholars; they will be eliminated by security forces of Kabul city. Therefore, it is brought to the attention of all soldiers and officers of the armed forces and workers and employees of the state institutions that in light of the declaration of general amnesty by the Islamic state of Afghanistan and by the esteemed jehadi leaders, which is in force all over the country, that they (?should report) to their (?places of work) with full confidence and continue their (?national) duties.

Commission Warns of 'Evil Agitators'

LD2604093392 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Dari 0717 GMT 26 Apr 92

[Announcement by Kabul Security Commission]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate:

Following its previous announcement the Security Commission of the city of Kabul addresses the Muslim nation of Afghanistan, in particular the noble inhabitants of Kabul city, thereby directly attracting their attention in repulsing the agitators.

The Security Commission of Kabul city, at the head of a decisive majority of the jehadi forces and the armed forces, has undertaken the formidable mission of the defense of the independence, national sovereignty, and territorial integrity of the country. Its members are joint fighters and fellow believers along with all brethren and lovers of the country, seeking to carry out this major national duty in an attempt to restore peace quickly in the country in an Islamic and Afghan manner.

However, the Muslim people and the noble inhabitants of Kabul city have unfortunately been informed that a number of evil agitators, despite repeated warnings by the security commission of the Kabul city, are continuing their last-ditch and cunning efforts like owls, and by disrupting the peace and security they have disrupted the atmosphere of peace and calm in Kabul city. They are embarking on the destruction of buildings and government premises, as well as attacking the innocent and defenseless people. In this way they have actually taken a position against peace, independence, and national sovereignty, and set themselves against the high interests of Afghanistan and international public opinion, in particular the credible UN international organization.

The Security Commission of the city of Kabul, at the head of all the jehadi forces and armed forces, has taken action with all available means against these agitators who are engaged in a conspiracy against the Afghan Muslim nation. The Security Commission of Kabul city therefore assures our dear compatriots that the Commission is in control of the situation and has sufficient means at its disposal for this purpose.

Therefore, the noble and Muslim people of Kabul are seriously being asked to cooperate with the Security Commission of Kabul city to arrest and root out the agitators and conspirators, in the defense of the beautiful city of Kabul—this ancient capital and heart of our country, Afghanistan. The Security Commission of Kabul city is discharging its formidable Islamic and national duty. The Security Commission of the city of Kabul is at the service of the Muslim nation and noble inhabitants of Kabul. Success comes from God.

Citizens Told To Cooperate With Commission

LD2604111392 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1030 GMT 26 Apr 92

[Text] Muslim people of Kabul, your cooperation is needed in implementing the orders of the Kabul Security Commission, which guarantees the security of your lives, property, and honor. Whoever resists the orders and instructions of the Security Commission will be confronted by a crushing response.

Security Commission on 'Foul Saboteurs'

LD2604174992 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 26 Apr 92

[Text] Following previous statements and information, the Muslim Afghan nation, in particular the noble people of Kabul, are addressed and the Musilm citizens of Kabul city are asked for their cooperation in repelling and repulsing saboteurs. The Security Commission of Kabul City, heading an absolute majority of the jehadi and armed forces, is pledged to the great mission of defending the independence, national sovereignty, and territorial integrity of the country, and through an Islamic and Afghan manner, and wants to maintain peace and security in the country. All brothers and patriots are in joint voice and unison in this great national duty.

Unfortunately, however, it should be brought to the notice of the Musilm and noble people of Kabul that a number of foul saboteurs, despite the warning and (?emphasis) of the Security Commission of Kabul City, are continuing their vain and harmful attempts like bats, and by disrupting peace and security have disrupted the atmosphere of tranquillity and peace in Kabul City. They are engaging in the destruction of state buildings and attacking defenseless and innocent citizens. In this way they have positioned themselves practically against peace, independence, and national sovereignty, and in opposition to the high interests of the Afghans and [words indistinct], in particular the credible world organization of the United Nations.

The Security Commission of Kabul City, at the head of the jehadi and armed forces, with all its possibilities, is taking measures against these saboteurs who are engaged in conspiracy and intrigue against the Muslim nation of Afghans. We assure our dear compatriots that the Security Commission of Kabul City has the situation under control and is [word indistinct] sufficient possibilities. Thus, the Muslim citizens of Kabul (?are requested) to cooperate with the Kabul City Security Commission in capturing and crushing the saboteurs and conspirators, and to carry out their great Islamic and national mission of protecting the ancient capital and heart of our beloved country, Afghanistan.

The Security Commission of Kabul City is in the service of the Muslim nation and noble citizens of Kabul. Success come from God.

Forces Urged To Stop Celebration Firing

LD2604105492 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Dari 1025 GMT 26 Apr 92

[Announcement by the High Command of Kabul Garrison]

[Text] All armed units of jehadi forces in Kabul city are instructed to refrain from firing in the air so as to protect discipline and peace in the city and not to cause annoyance to Kabul residents.

Mojahedin's Rabbani Addresses People

LD2604114292 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Dari 0706 GMT 26 Apr 92

[Message to people of Afghanistan from Professor Borhanoddin Rabbani, leader of Jami'at-e Eslami—read by announcer]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

Muslim compatriots, heroic commanders, epic-making mojahedin, blood-drenched martyrs [words indistinct], refugees outside the country: May peace and the blessing of God be upon you [last sentence in Arabic].

I congratulate you on the success of the Islamic revolution. The jehad of the persecuted Afghan nation finally opened the way to success through fire and blood. The arrogant and atheistic regime of Najib and his collaborators [words indistinct] has disappeared forever.

Muslim compatriots, your heroic, righteous, national jehad has brought about major changes in the history and geography of the world. As a result of the courage of your Muslim sons, the communist empire collapsed. Once again the adventurist and evil communist extremists' conspiracy attempted to make Kabul city a bloodbath and once again wanted to return our country back to the era of communism, atheism, despotism, and suffocation. They were confronted once again by your heroic and epic-making sons' action, however, and failed again. This conspiracy and intrigue is taking place at a time when the leaders of the mojahedin have announced their Islamic state after a prolonged [word indistinct]; this good news was given to all Islamic nations wherever they are. This conspiracy is taking place at a time when the jehad leadership council has decided to send to Kabul a five-man delegation [as received] under the supervision of esteemed Professor Mojaddedi so that the process of the transfer of power can be completed as soon as possible.

As the conspirators did not want our persecuted nation to benefit from the advantages of the jehad, they embarked on a conspiracy, but failed, fortunately. This conspiracy failed as a result of the timely action by the brave soldiers of Islam under the command of dear brother, Commander Engineer Ahmad Shah Mas'ud. On the basis of [the religious saying that] right is victorious over wrong and light triumphs over dark, once again I congratulate you.

Dear compatriots, your Islamic revolution today reached its final stage of victory. I promise you that, God willing, the hand of terrorists will henceforth be cut off from our country.

Dear compatriots, our nation is a united and single nation forever. As a result of the Islamic revolution of our country, in which all the strata of the nation and all the people took part with extreme bravery, our nation is a united and single nation. We will never allow the evil hands to cause [word indistinct] and sow discord among our nation. Titles of race, tribe, breed, and color will never separate our people from one another. Islam guarantees the unity of our nation and country.

Dear compatriots, our beloved nation in its Islamic revolution tolerated all its pains alone. However, Islamic countries, Islamic forces, freedom-loving countries, did not leave our nation alone when they were suffering from pain and difficulties. At this time, when we are at the new stage of our historic, national, and Islamic life, we thank and express appreciation to all friendly countries, in particular our neighbors—the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Saudi Arabia, and other Islamic and non-Islamic friendly countries.

Afghanistan is an Islamic nation and an Islamic state which is set up by the Jehad Leadership Council which will soon, God willing, be landing in Afghanistan. This major phenomenon is a formidable transformation in the history of the world and our nation. The Islamic Afghanistan will be (?the cradle) of peace and security. We also assure our neighboring countries, all nations, and all countries of the world that the Islamic revolution, during the period of its success, will be the (?cradle) of peace and stability in the world. Once again we call on all countries, international institutions, members of the Islamic conference, and the United Nations to cooperate with our persecuted and heroic nation.

We are fully confident that our friends will cooperate with us for the reconstruction of the country as they cooperated with us during the jehad and our revolution. [Words indistinct] after the consolidation and stability of the situation in the country, once again we announce a general amnesty vis-a-vis all those [words indistinct] people who followed a wrong path; and we give an assurance to everyone that during the government of the mojahedin, the property, life, and honor of the people will never be violated (?by anybody anywhere).

We ask all those mojahed brethren wherever they are, to restore security completely. Once again, I express appreciation to the military, all armed forces, all people of Kabul who have cooperated with our committed brethren to foil this evil conspiracy. I am fully confident that these conspirators are incapable of achieving anything. Peace be upon you. Professor Borhanoddin Rabbani.

Generals Removed; Changes in Army

BK2604143092 Islamabad THE NEWS in English 26 Apr 92 p 1

[Text] Kabul—The ruling military council in Kabul has removed some senior generals of Najib regime and launched a series of changes in the Army.

In this regard, six generals of the Kabul regime including the army intelligence chief and commanders of police and army in Jalalabad have been sacked.

Pro-Hekmatyar Radio Reports, Hezb Statements

Ostad Farid Rejects Mas'ud Coalition

LD2504062292 (Clandestine) Radio Message of Freedom in Pashto 0145 GMT 25 Apr 92

[Text] Esteemed Ostad Farid, amir of Parwan and Kapisa, said the Kabul regime has fallen, that there is no need to attack Kabul, and that the regime's forces have no hope of standing against the mojahedin. He said: The time for fighting has ended, and peace will come. The mojahedin will form an independent Islamic government in Afghanistan. Peace can be restored in Afghanistan without UN interference in the peace and security process. The amir of Parwan and Kapisa added: The Jehadi Council proposed and set up by Mas'ud suffers from many defects, including the association of government militia with this coalition. Engineer Mas'ud has formed a coalition with those people who spent their past life shedding the blood of the innocent people in Afghanistan and violating the people's dignity, honor, and property. Regarding the coalition by Ahmad Shah Mas'ud, esteemed Ostad Farid added: Those people who work in the present regime's sensitive posts and departments have participated in the present coalition of Mas'ud. One of these people is Asef Delawar, the regime's (?chief of general staff), who is notorious for shedding the blood of the defenseless people of Afghanistan. Nabi 'Azimi and Dostam are the other two who have participated in this coalition, the oppression and atrocity of which all Afghans are aware. Esteemed Ostad Farid said in the last part of his interview: The present coalition of Mas'ud with the communists is contrary to the wishes of the people of Afghanistan; therefore, there is no need for us to joint this coalition.

Pro-Hekmatyar Radio Reassures Kabul

LD2504091292 (Clandestine) Radio Message of Freedom in Pashto to Afghanistan 0145 GMT 25 Apr 92

[Text] Muslim citizens of Kabul city: You are being given assurance and confidence that the responsibility for protecting your life, property, honor, and pride rests with the mojahedin, and they have taken measures so that no one will be harmed or will suffer loss.

Hezb-e Eslami on Leadership

LD2504150692 (Clandestine) Radio Message of Freedom in Pashto to Afghanistan 1400 GMT 25 Apr 92

["Resolution of Hezb-e Eslami-e Afghanistan dated 25 April 1992"]

[Text] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful: The session in which a decision made by some leaders of the mojahedin on the future government of Afghanistan has not been attended by representatives of Hezb-e Eslami Afghanistan. The decision was made in the absence of Hezb-e Eslami's representatives. Hezb-e Eslami Afghanistan agrees to the establishment of a leadership council and its presidency, which will represent the state. We also agree to the formation of government and to the premiership proposal. But we do not accept the decision made about the power of the transitional council. We do not consider that council necessary because that council will create many problems and lead to more differences.

The transitional government is sufficient for the transition of power in that ministers shall be appointed on the advice of the prime minister.

We completely agree to the formation of a leadership council.

Hezb-e-Eslami Afghanistan will never accept a plan that does not guarantee the holding of elections within a year.

Success comes from God.

Hekmatyar on Military Intentions, Mas'ud

BK2604144892 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 26 Apr 92 pp 1, 10

[Excerpts] Peshawar, April 25—Golbodin Hekmatyar, leader of the Hezb-e Eslami, claimed on Saturday [25 April] that his forces have occupied all the important installations in Kabul and closed the city airport for all sorts of air traffic.

He was addressing a wireless conference from an unknown place, probably from southern approaches leading to Kabul.

However Kabul radio and television were being defended by forces of the tottering Kabul regime. Whether the regime's forces were being supported by Ahmad Shah Mas'ud's men could not be known.

Hekmatyar said there had been no significant resistance to the take over in Kabul. The main resistance was being offered by General Momen's militia and this was confirmed by the HEA [Hezb-e Eslami-e Afganistan] chief who told Momen and his men that the time for adventurism was over and they should no more resist to cause unnecesssary bloodshed. Any attempt to disturb the present status quo he said, wold invite his armed mojahedin to enter the city. Golbodin's lightning takeover was apparently aimed at to forestall the possible journey to Kabul by the 51-member delegation announced in Peshawar on Friday as a transitional set up. The delegation was supposed to leave for the Afghan capital latest by Monday but it had perhaps met its fate before being inducted.

Replying to a question by THE MUSLIM Hekmatyar categorically stated that there was no need for the delegation now. "I hope they do not come because they

were coming for the transfer of power which has already been transferred". He had already rejected the formula under which the delegation was to come to Kabul tomorrow or day after tomorrow.

He said the Kabul airport had been closed till further orders and nobody would be allowed to flee. Anybody trying to take off from the airport, would be shot down. Najib's fate he said would be decided by the people. The area where Najib was lodged in the United Nations building was said to be under the control of Hekmatyar's men. [passage omitted]

Dismissing the possibility of a handshake with Raz Mohammad Paktin the Interior Minister in the present set up in Kabul and Aslam Watanjar, the Defence Minister in Kabul, who both are Pushtun speaking, Mr Hekmatyar said there is no question of shaking hands with them. It was the Kabul militia which voluntarily joined hands with HEA.

Replying to a question about the position of commander Engineer Ahmad Shah Mas'ud, Hekmatyar maintained, "I do not have any information about Mas'ud. He is in Charikar ask this question to the Jam'iyat-e Eslami (JIA) men in Peshawar".

Throwing light on the interim set up of Afghanistan he said an interim government comprising all the parties and groups of mojahedin would be formed in Kabul.

He said if all the groups of mojahedin agreed on a consensus government, the interim set up would work for a period of six months and within one year, election would be held in Afghanistan after which power would be transferred to the majority party in the country.

He particularly thanked the government of Pakistan, Iran and Saudi Arabia for wholeheartedly supporting the cause of mojahedin during their struggle against the Soviet troops. [passage omitted]

Hekmatyar Threatens Showra, Claims Victory

LD2704051992 (Clandestine) Radio Message of Freedom in Dari to Afghanistan 0245 GMT 27 Apr 92

[Text] Brother Golboddin Hekmatyar told a Peshawar news conference by radio from inside the country that power in Kabul is in the mojahedin's hands. There is no need for the Showra, formed in Peshawar, for the transfer of power. We will shoot down any aircraft which attempts to bring members of this Showra from Pakistan to Kabul. The AFGHAN NEWS AGENCY, quoting Brother Hekmatyar, reports that full peace and security is in force in Kabul. Brother Hekmatyar said in his news conference that a small number of mojahedin from the Hezb-e Eslami have entered Kabul city and are controlling important and strategic points in Kabul city. Declaring general amnesty to all those who have cooperated with the hated Kabul regime, Brother Hekmatyar said that they should now work for consolidation of peace and construction of the homeland. All (?military) forces of Kabul have surrendered to mojahedin by flying green flags. The presidential palace, the interior and defence ministries, and a number of important units and installations have been captured by the mojahedin of the Hezb-e Eslami-e Afghanistan. Brother Hekmatyar said that the times of military coups in Afghanistan are over [words indistinct] elections should take place on the basis of equality. If other jehadi forces agree on a jehadi council and an interim government, the Hezb-e Eslami will also [words indistinct] that presidential elections would take place within six months and parliamentary elections within one year. Commenting on the formation of a Showra in Peshawar to transfer power, Brother Hekmatyar said that the aforementioned Showra is no longer important. Following the mojahedin victory in Kabul, no need is felt for this Showra. Brother Hekmatyar pointed out that the Hezb-e Eslami-e Afghanistan has never been in favor of government by one organization; mojahedin should set aside their differences and join hands in unity for the construction of the country.

Hekmatyar Reported To Accept Pact

BK2704083092 Hong Kong AFP in English 0823 GMT 27 Apr 92

[Text] Peshawar, Pakistan, April 27 (AFP)—Radical Afghan mojahedin leader Golboddin Hekmatyar Monday agreed to accept the six-party agreement reached here Friday, a top resistance leader said.

Qutbuddin Hilal, a top aide to Hekmatyar in charge of the political wing of Hezb-e Eslami, had signed the peace accord "unconditionally," the leader of a rival faction, Yunes Khales, said.

He told AFP that all parties had agreed to an immediate ceasefire in Kabul.

Radio Criticizes BBC, VOA

LD2704091192 (Clandestine) Radio Message of Freedom in Dari to Afghanistan 0245 GMT 27 Apr 92

[Station commentary]

[Text] Listeners of Radio Message of Freedom: The satanic stations BBC, Voice of America [VOA], and other small and large radio stations and newspapers are very busy these days diverting the Islamic revolution and Islamic jehad of Afghanistan from its true path in a series of warmongering (?propaganda). In this connection we have a commentary by a Radio Message of Freedom commentator:

Benon Sevan, representative of Butrus Ghali, the head of the so-called UN organization who for some time now has been active in promoting the plans of the United States and the West in Afghanistan, but whose activities have not born fruit in view of the active presence and eye-catching victories of the mojahedin, has met with Mas'ud in Charikar, as you have lately been made aware.

The Pakistani newspaper WAHDAT, published in Pashto in Peshawar, has published material on the meeting between Mas'ud and Benon Sevan, saying Mas'ud told Sevan that he had conquered Kabul and that it would be better for those jehad forces which have encircled Kabul to end their siege of the city and think about forming a transitional council with other leaders. Those who have been following recent events in the country well know that the situation which came about in Kabul following the regime's removal in no way speaks of clashes with mojahedin. [sentence as heard]

Today, it can be clearly seen that opportunistic and deceived forces in the jehad ranks have joined in coalition with infamous militias and military forces of the Kabul regime while day-by-day mojahedin are bringing more and more pressure to besiege Kabul and to foil the compromising coalition plan.

The radio stations of arrogance are trying to present Mas'ud as a main and authoritative force in the jihad and to give the situation that has come about a touch of Islamic propaganda, to prevent him from being exposed and discredited among the people.

Today, the party of Mas'ud has become an object of propaganda for the enemies of the Islamic jehad. All the satanic forces and all the despicable and un-Islamic elements which have been isolated from the people as a result of the great Islamic jihad of the Afghan people are today using the name of Mas'ud as a last resort in their propaganda. They want to use him against the principled and patriotic (?forces) of jehad—the Hezb-e Eslami and other effective jehad forces.

The more the BBC and the Voice of America talk about Mas'ud and present him as a moderate leader—which in fact means someone who is compromising his principles and is intoxicated with Western values—the more the people will understand and be ready to confront the coalition plan.

In parallel with the increase in the arrogance's propaganda in favor of Mas'ud, his image as a mojahed will be stained and his popularity will drop among people. The world arrogance has managed to portray Mas'ud as a rebel and a devious commander against the mainstream jehad. Arrogance wants Mas'ud as a tool in implementing the un-Islamic objectives of the United States and the West and to prevent the (?establishment) of an Islamic government in Afghanistan. However, praise be to God, the recent victories and successes achieved everywhere by the mojahedin have forever (?deprived) the arrogance from doing so.

It can be said with confidence that the jehad and revolutionary conquest of Kabul is an unchangeable fact. Kabul will definitely be conquered by the mojahedin and an Islamic government unstained by alliances and coalitions with atheism will take the affairs of the country into its hands.

Islamic Unity Party Rejects 51-Member Council

LD2504182292 Tehran IRNA in English 1703 GMT 25 Apr 92

[Text] Tehran, April 25, IRNA—The Islamic Unity Party of Afghanistan today rejected the 51-member Council set up by a group of mojahedin because of the absence of all Afghan mojahedin parties at the meeting and its ignoring of the rights of ethnic and minority groups in Afghanistan, in disregard to the views of jehad commanders.

Party spokesman 'Abdol Haq Shafiq told IRNA here today that on Friday some mojahedin parties formed the 51-man Council in a meeting held without the knowledge of other parties.

"As long as the will of the struggling Afghan nation and the will of all mojahedin parties is not respected, no plan will be considered acceptable, therefore the party disapproves this Council and its composition," he said.

Hezb-e Wahdat-e Eslami Lauds Mojahedin Victory

LD2504211792 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1930 GMT 25 Apr 92

[Text] In the wake of the Muslim Afghan mojahedin's victory, Mr. 'Abdol Haq Shafaq, the spokesman of Hezb-e Wahdat-e Eslami [Islamic Unity Party], in a message congratulated the Afghans on this victory.

[Begin Shafaq recording] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. There is no power and might except God the Almighty, and there is no help except from God the exalted and the wise. [Koranic verse] We thank the powerful and almighty God for at last fulfilling his promise and granting the Muslim and free Afghan nation victory in their struggle against blasphemy, polytheism, and atheism, and in safeguarding their Islamic and national values—despite the multitude of foes.

Hezb-e Wahdat-e Eslami-e Afghanistan congratulates all men and women who sacrificed their lives but not their rights, and all free and courageous mojahedin and commanders of the country, on this great and historical victory, notably on the recent victories throughout the entire beloved country, especially in the city of Kabul.

It strictly advises the entire Muslim Afghan people, in particular the citizens of Kabul, to strive toward preserving the achievements of their great and historic jehad, and calls on them to remain vigilant and be prepared to defend these values, and maintain Islamic and national unity and the achievements of jehad, as well as their faith, honor, and freedom of their lives and possessions, and to nip any potential plots of the enemies of Islam and the country in the bud.

We hope that this great victory will herald the establishment of an Islamic government based on social justice

and the wishes of all Muslim people of our country. God's peace and blessings be upon you all.

Mazari on Mojahedin Unity

NC2604074592 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0330 GMT 26 Apr 92

[Text] Hezb-e Wahdat-e Eslami Secretary General Ostad Mazari spoke with our correspondent in Kabul and stressed that the mojahedin's unity and the Muslim Afghan nation's selflessness and sacrifice have brought about the victorious occupation of Kabul. Mazari told our correspondent:

[Begin Mazari recording] We greet all the world's Muslims on this great victory, and especially the Muslims of Afghanistan for their 14-year relentless struggle and who today are victoriously in the capital. We congratulate all the people. The tribulations and hardships they have endured during the past 14 years ended today. The result is that the mojahedin and people are rejoicing and the people's slogans and demonstrations welcome the mojahedin. The people should be assured that their lives, property, and security are guaranteed. Tyranny has ended. An Islamic government will be set up which guarantees all the rights of those nationalities which were deprived throughout Afghanistan's history. The government will be announced in (?statements) by the mojahedin. [end recording]

He stressed that there are many problems, but that the mojahedin are seeking to eliminate them. The Afghan nation also wants the same and supports the mojahedin. In conclusion, Ostad Mazari said in a message to the Afghan mojahedin that they should preserve unity, act in coordination, and strive to ensure the safety of the people's lives and property.

Mas'ud: Hekmatyar Will Be Driven From Kabul

LD2604104992 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 26 Apr 92

[Text] Dear listeners, I draw your attention to a report that has just been received on the situation in Kabul. Reports say that Hekmatyar's forces [Hezb-e Eslami], which had taken the Interior Ministry and part of the Kabul Constabulary, are surrounded by other Afghan mojahedin forces right now. Hekmatyar, whose efforts to enter Kabul have been frustrated, has launched rocket attacks on Kabul.

Meanwhile, Ahmad Shah Mas'ud, in a radio message today from Afghanistan, accused Hekmatyar of treason against the ruling council and the interim government and said: We did not want to fight against Hekmatyar, but he has forced us into it. Now we will force him to leave Kabul.

Accuses Hekmatyar of Staging Coup

BK2604122192 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 26 Apr 92 pp 1, 10

[Text] April 25—Ahmad Shah Mas'ud the most powerful of mojahedin leaders, on Saturday [25 April] accused Golboddin Hekmatyar of attempting to stage a coup in Afghanistan and planning to seize power in collusion with former President Mr Najibollah.

Commander Mas'ud said his rival Hekmatyar had brought unarmed mojahedin into the capital. They, he maintained, have been given arms by one of the factions of the former Communist party which is still partially in power and controlling arms supplied by the former Soviet Union. He claimed that Hekmatyar and Najibollah, the man who was ousted from the presidency last week, were planning to seize power.

Commander Mas'ud hoped that his men would be able to oust the Hekmatyar supporters from the positions they have taken in Kabul. He said he had no desire to take military action against the capital. He had been waiting for the political parties in Peshawar who have agreed on the formation of a new government.

Mr Mas'ud said he was completely in favour of power being handed over to the new council being set up under the agreement reached in Peshawar.

Ahmad Shah Mas'ud forces are most disciplined and have the experience of a long warfare. In comparison Golboddin Hekmatyar's forces lack discipline as well as experience of active warfare.

BBC's correspondent reports from Kabul that slogans of Allah-o-Akbar, long live mojahedin and down with communism echoed through the capital. Groups of up to 100 people paraded through the streets raising green flag of Islam. He says Kabul has finally fallen, but it has fallen to five different mojahedin groups. When the journalists arrived at the presidential palace this morning, they saw troops of the armed forces being moved away at gun point by armed mojahedin from the Hezb-e Eslami faction. Most of the troops seem to be cooperating with the mojahedin.

Chronology of Battles, Takeover of Kabul City

Jalalabad, Meymaneh, Paghman Captured

LD2404165692 (Clandestine) Radio Message of Freedom in Dari to Afghanistan 1400 GMT 24 Apr 92

[Excerpt] Jalalabad, the main center of Nangarhar Province, Meymaneh, the main center of Faryab Province, and Paghman district, have all been captured by the mojahedin. The city of Meymaneh was taken on Thursday by the mojahedin under the leadership of General Mohammed Rasul, military commander of Hezb-e Eslami. It is also reported that today [words indistinct]. It is also reported that Paghman district, with

all its military [words indistinct] surrendered to the mojahedin. [passage omitted]

Mojahedin in Control of Radio, TV, Airport

LD2504184492 Tehran IRNA in English 1728 GMT 25 Apr 92

[Text] Kabul, April 25, IRNA—The entry of Afghan mojahedin groups into Kabul has dramatically changed the situation in the city with sporadic gunshots ringing out in various parts of the city, said the latest reports.

IRNA correpondence in Kabul reported that hours before traffic came to a halt in the capital, and the streets are filled with truckloads of mojahedin. Besides, the roads are only open to journalists' cars.

"Sensitive parts of the capital including the presidential palace and several ministries have been surrounded by the mojahedin, with portraits of the father of the Islamic revolution, Imam Khomeyni, adorning walls," he said.

Kabul Radio and Television which was taken by mojahedin commander Ahmad Shah Mas'ud today, continues to broadcast routine programs.

Forces loyal to Mas'ud have also taken control of Kabul Airport.

Mojahedin groups including Mas'ud's forces are massed on either side of the presidential palace.

Eye-witnesses confirmed tension around the palace. Gunshots have also been heard from the place.

Hours ago, Mas'ud's forces took control of the Defence Ministry building of the Defence Ministry.

Qandahar, Nimroz Under Mojahedin Control

LD2504191392 Tehran IRNA in English 1434 GMT 25 Apr 92

[Text] Mashhad, April, 25, IRNA—The governor general of Farah Province, Afghanistan together with 150 military officers and commanders of the toppled Najibollah's regime submitted to the mojahedin today [25 April].

An Afghan mojahedin source told IRNA here, that following the liberation of Nimruz and Qandahar Provinces, the radio and TV stations in those provinces have come under control of the mojahedin.

The radio/TV stations now broadcast statements and communiques of the coalition forces of the mojahedin, the source said.

The mojahedin forces have set up resistance bases in Farah Province and are involved in controlling the capital city of Farah.

According to reports three security bases of Najibollah's regime as well as a prison in Qandahar fell into the mojahedin's hands.

The mojahedin captured Kabul today in an apparently bloodless offensive.

Mas'ud Takes Charge; Planes Headed South

BK2504174492 Hong Kong AFP in English 1734 GMT 25 Apr 92

[Text] Kabul, April 25 (AFP)—Fighter planes took off from the Afghan capital late Saturday [25 April] shortly after the announcement of a six-member commission headed by mojahedin commander Ahmed Shah Mas'ud to administer Kabul.

Foreign military experts here said the planes were headed for positions held by Mas'ud's rival Golboddin Hekmatyar, whose troops have been massing to the south of Kabul.

Diplomatic observers viewed the announcement of the six-member commission as a virtual "counter-coup," with Hekmatyar's men being completely ignored.

Mas'ud was designated defence minister in an announcement carried by national television.

"Every commander in Kabul should maintain peace and calm," Mas'ud said in the message read out by his political adviser, 'Abdol Rehman, on television. It was the first time a mojahedin activist had appeared on national television.

The gunfire erupted shortly after 7:00 p.m. (1430 GMT) in what appeared to be celebration of the mojahedin takeover of the capital, but firing from heavy weapons replaced it and continued until 9:30 p.m. (1700 GMT).

The sky was alight with tracer bullets, flares and rocket rounds as the unprecedented broadcast was relayed from the television station, which was taken over by mojahedin troops earlier in the day.

The intense firing was raging around government complexes close to an AGENCE FRANCE PRESSE office in Kabul's diplomatic Wazir Akbar Khan District.

In Peshawar, Hezb-e Eslami leader Yunes Khales condemned developments in Kabul and directed his commanders to avoid siding with Mas'ud or Hekmatyar.

Tehran Correspondent Reports on Fighting

NC2604072992 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0330 GMT 26 Apr 92

[Report by unidentified correspondent of the Voice and Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran from Kabul on 26 April—recorded]

[Text] With salutations to the listeners of the morning newscast of the Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran. Heavy and light weapons fire could be heard all throughout last night in Kabul and never seemed to cease. Until 2000 yesterday, no armed clashes were

reported among the forces of the Hezb-e Wahdat-e Eslami, Jam'iyat-e Eslami, Harakat-e Eslami, or those of Hekmatyar and Mas'ud. But as soon as it was dark, Hekmatyar's forces tried to attack the joint mojahedin forces along the Kabul defense line outside the city and also attempted to occupy a mojahedin forces base inside Kabul city in order to take over the mojahedin forces in Kabul. They were unsuccessful in both attempts.

Hekmatyar's forces tried to occupy the radio and television building at midnight, but Ahmad Shah Mas'ud's forces repulsed the attack and have been in control there since last evening. At 2135 some fighter planes overflew Kabul for 20-25 minutes, but no reports were received about their targets or objectives.

Afghanistan's radio and television stations continued their normal programs until 2330, when the announcers read out statements from the radio and television of the Islamic government of Afghanistan calling for security, law and order, and vigilance on the part of the people and mojahedin.

In one statement, all the people and government employees were asked to report for work tomorrow. It may be added that even though there is an extraordinary situation prevailing in Kabul, employees of the water and power, telecommunications, hospitals and other services are working as usual.

Iranian Charge d'Affaires Taherian in Kabul told the Voice and Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran correspondent that all Iranian citizens in Kabul are well.

Details on Alliances, Fighting

BK2604111492 Hong Kong AFP in English 1103 GMT 26 Apr 92

[By Kate Webb]

[Excerpts] Kabul, April 26 (AFP)—Troops of northern mojahedin commander Ahmed Shah Mas'ud on Sunday [26 April] wrested the presidential palace from rival troops of Golboddin Hekmatyar's Hezb-e Eslami faction as the battle for Kabul began to take shape.

The palace was captured after a two-hour battle as UN Secretary-General Butrus Butrus Ghali called for an immediate ceasefire.

Mas'ud and allied troops said through interpreters that Hekmatyar had tried to pull off a "coup," citing the attempted Hezb occupation of the palace complex, but it remained unclear why the major battles had shaped up between the two bitter rivals after Saturday's relative calm.

Hezb and Jam'iyat-e Eslami troops had poured into the city Saturday, and the Jam'iyat troops and their allies from a northern coalition headed by Uzbek militia commander Omar Agha were bringing in fresh reinforcements Sunday from the northern cities of Mazar-e Sharif and Charikar. [passage omitted]

A Jam'iyat spokesman said [leader of the planned interim Afghan Islamic government] Sebghatollah Mojaddedi's chances of going to Kabul were bleak because of the fighting and the Hezb has threatened to shoot down any plane that tries to fly into Kabul carrying council members.

Heavy weapons, artillery, and tank fire could be heard most of the day Sunday, and late in the morning a MiG fighter flew towards the south, apparently to bomb approaching Hezb troops.

Another hot point in the city was the headquarters of the national guard at the Balai Hissar fort where commanders loyal to Kabul Government deserter 'Abdol Rashid Dostam said the Hezb had managed to take the high ground.

Colonel Agha, a Dostam commander who is directing operations in Kabul, said the northern alliance and Mas'ud had been able to fly some 1,200 reinforcements into the city from the north, while at least 1,000 Hezb troops were in the city and an unknown number of "hard-line Pashtuns" from the Afghan Army with them.

Pashtuns are predominantly from the south and southeast of Afghanistan, the stronghold of Hekmatyar, while the northern forces are a mixture of mainly non-Pashtun tribes.

Conflicting reports were coming in from various parts of the city, with many saying that one Hezb group was allied with the Mas'ud troops after other reports that Hezb units had surrendered.

Dostam troops told reporters that they believed Afghan Defence Minister Aslam Watanjar, Interior Minister Ras Pakteen and vice president Mohammad 'Rafi, all identified as hard-line Pashtuns, were in the Interior Ministry with the Hezb, but there was no independent confirmation of their presence there.

Saturday saw a euphoric display of shooting in the sky when Kabul Radio, broadcasting under the name of the Islamic State of Afghanistan, announced that a six-member council had taken over the city, with Mas'ud as its defence minister.

Earlier in the day, it was apparent that large areas of the city were under the complete control of Mas'ud and his allies.

Small mojahedin checkpoints have sprung up on rooftops throughout the city, with green Islamic flags planted atop them, and bearded mojahedin stopped most traffic but waved journalists cheerfully on, except in areas where intense shooting was under way.

The International Committee for the Red Cross reported that by 11:00 a.m., 186 wounded had been admitted to their hospital, most with gunshot wounds.

'Fierce Fighting' Breaks Out in Kabul

BK2604123392 Hong Kong AFP in English 1227 GMT 26 Apr 92

[Text] Kabul, April 26 (AFP)—Fierce fighting broke out Sunday afternoon around a complex of four hospitals in central Kabul, including a children's hospital.

Residents of the area on the edge of the diplomatic enclave of Wazir Akbar Khan said the fighting involved intense rocket, tank and machine gun fire.

Sketchy reports said mojahedin owing allegiance to commander Ahmad Shah Mas'ud were battling with regime soldiers who had sided with his arch-rival, Golboddin Hekmatyar.

Much of the fighting was centered on a military hospital, which is near three other hospitals including the Indian-built Indira Gandhi Children's Hospital.

There were no immediate reports of casualties in the fight, one of several under way in the Afghan capital as rival groups battled for control of the city of 1.5 million people.

Observers in Kabul said Hekmatyar's Hezb-e Eslami troops had taken position on a nearby mountain and were directing tank fire at Mas'ud's formations in the city centre.

The steady sound of machine gun fire resounded in the city Sunday afternoon, as tanks near the radio station fired back at the Hezb on the hill.

The house of an Indian school teacher was sprayed with heavy weapons fire and a tank shell tore down a tree in the same building.

Mojahedin Control Herat; Situation 'Calm'

LD2604124492 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 26 Apr 92

[Text] [Announcer] The correspondent despatched by the Voice and Vision [Radio and Television] of the Islamic Republic of Iran to Herat has just contacted us and is waiting to report on the situation in Herat. Mr Gudarzi—with thanks—I ask you to tell the midday news bulletin listeners about the situation in Herat up till now.

[Gudarzi] The city is completely calm at the moment and people are going to work in the normal way. Almost all the shops and the bazaar are open and many government departments have restarted work. The mojahedin are in control. For example one of the mojahedin commanders, called 'Ala'eddin, has been appointed as commander of the 17th Infantry Division which is based in the periphery of Herat. In the same way new managers and officials of sensitive departments, such as the Radio and Television, Judiciary, Police, Gendarmerie, and the like, have been appointed.

All over the city placards can be seen with Islamic slogans and pictures of martyrs. Tanks and military personnel carriers now in the hands of the mojahedin are travelling in the streets.

[Announcer] Mr Gudarzi; earlier reports spoke of the good unity which exists between the Afghan groups across Afghanistan. Please tell us about the contacts between the parties and groups deployed in that city.

[Gudarzi] Various Islamic groups have set up numerous bases and are running the affairs in the form of a 30-member council in which some of the local clerics and trusty dignitaries are also taking part. A noteworthy unity can be seen among them. Contrary to what used to be said before, there is no sign of disorder or confrontation between the groups.

A general amnesty has been declared and this has resulted in the speedy surrender of some of the military who were under the support of the [former] government. In any case, at the moment a relatively regular discipline has been established between the jehad forces.

[Announcer] Would you please elaborate on the groups that are in Herat at the moment.

[Gudarzi] Jam'iyat-e Eslami, Hezbollah, and Harakat-e Eslami have offices and bases and the most forces. Of course one or two offices belonging to Mohaz-e Melli and Hezb-e Eslami can also be seen. Other groups may also be present but the most important are the Jam'iyat-e Eslami, Hezbollah, and Harakat-e Eslami.

[Announcer] Once again we thank our colleague who managed to contact the studio by phone despite all the many difficulties.

Tehran Updates Situation in Kabul

LD2604180892 Tehran IRNA in English 1639 GMT 26 Apr 92

[Text] Kabul, April 26, IRNA—Afghan mujahideen forces under command of Ahmad Shah Mas'ud today drove forces loyal to Golboddin Hekmatyar's Hezb-e Eslami out of the presidential palace after a two-hour clash.

Mujahideen fed up with Hekmatyar's threats have vowed to break any obstacles put by him and his party in the way of transition of power to a 51-member council now preparing to fly from Islamabad to the Afghan capital.

Hekmatyar has threatened to shoot down the plane that will carry the 51-member council, arguing that the transition of power has been carried out before.

The council was formed in Kabul by several mujahideen groups based in Pakistan. The Iran-based Islamic Unity Party which along with some mujahideen parties did not attend the meet, has strongly objected to its composition.

In Kabul, ordinary citizens though pleased with the victory of the Afghan people after 14 years of bloody battles and dedication of over one million martyrs, fear the outbreak of interfactional fighting between rival mujahideen groups.

According to the IRNA correspondent, the central and southern districts of Kabul are nearly deserted with shops and other businesses shut down and few people and cars are seen moving on the streets.

Most government offices in Kabul are closed, with the city's telephone link with other places cut-off and the airport closed to foreign flights. Only a few military aircraft are landing and taking off from Kabul Airport.

Following attacks on several foreign embassies by unidentified people, the mujahideen are now patrolling around most embassies including that of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Kabul Radio interrupted its routine programme this morning to read a statement issued by the mujahideen-run security council urging people to remain calm.

Firing in the air by jubilant groups of mujahideen in celebration of their victory, continued throughout last night. It died down by 08:00 hours local time but resumed an hour later.

More serious shootings were also reported in Kabul, and the mujahideen controlled radio cut its regular programmes to air the communiques of the 6-man security committee, headed by Jam'iyat-e Eslami's Ahmad Shah Mas'ud to keep peace and order in the capital.

According to the radio, a group of anti-revolutionaries along with some remnants of the Kabul regime intending sabotage and disorder were supressed by the mujahideen forces.

The announcement urged people to cooperate with mujahideen forces and report any skeptical moves.

According to another report, Najibollah, head of the former regime who had sought safety at the U.N. bureau in Kabul after his ouster, has been sent to an unknown destination to be safe from any possible revenge by the people.

There is no report available about the other members of Kabul's ousted regime.

Cuban, Czechoslovak Embassies Attacked

LD2604203892 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 26 Apr 92

[Text] According to the latest reports from Kabul, the Cuban and Czechoslovak embassies in Kabul were attacked by unidentified elements today. Kabul radio, interrupting its normal programs, read a number of statements from the Kabul Security Commission, headed by Ahmad Shah Mas'ud. The statements condemned the embassy attacks, which were attributed to a number of counterrevolutionaries, working alongside the remaining Kabul regime members. The statements noted that the attempt to disrupt order and create chaos were defeated thanks to the efforts of the joint jehadi forces. The statements noted that: The jehad forces have taken charge of establishing calm in the city.

Envoys' Families Take Shelter

BK2704041092 Hong Kong AFP in English 1840 GMT 26 Apr 92

[Text] New Delhi, April 26 (AFP)—Diplomats in Kabul, many with families, have taken shelter in their missions as fighting between rival mojahedin factions rages on, officials said here Sunday. Senior Indian Government officials said most diplomats had left their homes in Kabul's diplomatic enclaves of Wazir Akbar Khan and Sahr-e-Naw on Saturday or Sunday and took shelter in the relative safety of their countries' missions.

Diplomatic staff from Egypt, Indonesia and India were among those who moved their families to their respective embassy compounds. Pakistanis have also moved out of their homes, one official said. Embassies in Kabul have steel doors securing vital interior areas. Some also have reinforced basements and "safe rooms."

Fresh details on Russian diplomats and their families were unknown, although a Russian diplomat had said Saturday that the embassy was surrounded by "friendly" mojahedin. An ITAR-TASS journalist in New Delhi said there had been no dispatches Sunday from the Russian news agency's correspondent in Kabul, German Baikov, whose bureau is across from the Russian Embassy.

The Indian Embassy, one of the biggest in Kabul, has "strengthened its own security, and all its officials were safe," an Indian official said after Indian ambassador Vijay Nambiar contacted New Delhi by radio. The Indian Embassy is located close to the Afghan Interior Ministry, which was occupied Saturday by the Hezb-e Eslami forces of Golboddin Hekmatyar, arch-rival of Jam'iyat-e Eslami commander Ahmad Shah Mas'ud. Several teachers at the Indian Embassy school, the only international school in Kabul, have also moved into the embassy complex, located next to the Indonesian charge d'affaires' residence. The latter is the property of Sebgatollah Mojaddedi, head of a 51-member mojahedin council that is to take over power in Afghanistan in the short term. He is expected to return from Pakistan in the coming days.

The home of one of the half-dozen Indian teachers has been strafed by machine gun fire, and a tree outside sheared by a shell fired by a mojahedin tank. Employees of several other diplomatic missions and international non-governmental organizations were stranded in blocks of apartments in Microrayon district, where they had taken flats at low rents, the Indian officials said, speaking on condition of anonymity. Microrayon is located close

to four hospitals where heavy fighting between Jam'iyat-e Eslami and Hezb-e Eslami forces has taken place.

The 26 Soviet-built blocks are also occupied by ministers of ousted president Najibollah's Soviet-installed regime, senior bureaucrats, air force fighter pilots and army staff officers. One flat belongs to Babrak Karmal, the communist Afghan president whom Najibollah succeeded in 1986.

Dozens of visiting and resident foreign journalists, scattered throughout the city, meanwhile left for Kabul's high-rise Continental Hotel after tanks joined in the fighting to grab the city of 1.5 million people.

Council Forces Gain Upper Hand

BK2704031492 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 27 Apr 92

[Text] Reports from Kabul speak of sporadic fighting between forces supporting the interim council led by Professor Sebghatollah Mojaddedi and its opponents. However, the pro-council forces evidently have a upper hand in the fighting. The intensity of the fighting is confined around the old fort of Bala Hissar from where the route to the south from Kabul and the road leading to the airport can be controlled. Reports have also been received of fighting around the four hospital complexes after heavy clashes and seizure of the presidential palace by the mojahedin. A report says that anti-council troops have taken up positions in higher regions and have fired at pro-council forces. They have also dug trenches at the Interior Ministry.

Citing foreign diplomats in Kabul, AFP has reported that nearly 50 people belonging to the anti-council troops surrendered to Commander Ahmad Shah Mas'ud forces in Kabul. Reports say that Kabul regime forces who deserted earlier are now landing at civilian and military airports of Kabul with reinforcements from northern cities of Mazar-e Sharif and Charikar. The Kabul airports are controlled by pro-council mojahedin.

Meanwhile, the 51-member council of Afghan leaders and the mojahedin formed to take over administration in Afghanistan is expected to leave Peshawar for Kabul today. The delay in their departure was caused by a lack of adequate landing and night takeoff facilities at Kabul airport.

Mojahedin Council Leaves for Kabul

BK2704062292 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0600 GMT 27 Apr 92

[Text] A report just received says a delegation comprising 20 members of the Afghan mojahedin council led by the council chief, Professor Sebghatollah Mojaddedi, left Peshawar for Kabul this morning. The remaining members of the council will go to Kabul later.

[Hong Kong AFP in English at 0534 GMT on 27 April in a similar item adds the following: "A huge convoy comprising jeeps and other vehicles left by road along with some 20 council members, a spokesman of Jam'iyat-e Eslami Najibollah Lafraie said. He said other council members, mostly mojahedin comanders who are already in Afghanistan, would join the council in Kabul. Sources said Sibgatullah Mojaddedi, the president designate of the 51-member council, was in the convoy which left Peshawar shortly after 7.30 a.m. (02.30 gmt). Lafraie was not sure if Mojaddedi would continue to travel by road or fly part of the way to Kabul. Mojaddedi's spokesman here, Abdul Salam, said the president had left with the convoy. Sources in Mojaddedi's office said the caravan comprised about 500 vehicles."]

Iranian Medical Aid Arrives in Herat

LD2604184692 Tehran IRNA in English 1650 GMT 26 Apr 92

[Text] Herat (Afghanistan), April 26, IRNA—The first shipment of Iranian-donated pharmaceutical aid weighing two tons and worth 10 million rials today reached this city some 140 kms east of the Iranian borders.

"Other consignments of pharmaceutical assistance along with teams of doctors will be sent here by Iran soon," said an envoy of the Khorasan governor general's office who arrived here with the aid.

Dr. Mohammad Hassan Farid, head of a Herat hospital interviewed by IRNA described the health status in the city as "critical" and called for continuation of such assistance.

He cautioned that as result of a 13 year old war, disruption of supply routes in Afghanistan, malnutrition and poor health care, parasitic, pulmonic, digestive and skin infections are spreading among people at a relatively high rate.

Iranian Envoy: Consensus Among Factions Needed

BK2604130792 Karachi DAWN in English 26 Apr 92 p 16

[Excerpts] Islamabad, April 25—Three planeloads of Mojahedin including 51 members of transitional council led by Sebghatollah Mojaddedi, will leave Peshawar sometime on Sunday [16 April] for Kabul, it was reliably learnt here on Saturday. [passage omitted]

Hezb-e Eslami of Engineer Golboddin Hekmatyar and Hezb-e Wahdat, the eight-party Iran based mojahedin alliance, have already rejected the formula.

Mahmud Musavi, Iranian ambassador at large while commenting on the outcome of negotiations soon after the mojahedin leaders had announced the formula, at a Press conference on late Friday night in Peshawar, told DAWN at the Governor's House around one in the morning, that the agreement did not include all groups.

He said majority groups and parties of Afghan mojahedin "have not taken part in the negotiations."

"Some groups have not taken part in the negotiations while some have problems about their proportions in the new arrangement," he elaborated.

For instance, he said Hezb-e Wahdat of Iran, a coalition of eight parties "has not taken part in the negotiations."

Mr Musavi, who took part in the consultations in Peshawar, said in his view fresh negotations would be needed to find a comprehensive solution.

He said the formula worked out aimed at setting up a government to replace Najibollah, "but the main point is, will the people of Afghanistan accept this government?"

He said the mechanism to put the new government in place in Kabul too did not come up for discussion.

He said, he had heard that the regime in Kabul was ready to hand over power. "But the new developments have complicated the situation." [passage omitted]

India

Reportage on Afghan Situation, Ghali Visit

Ghali 'Ready To Go To Kabul'

BK2404130592 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1230 GMT 24 Apr 92

[Text] The UN secretary general, Dr. Butrus Ghali, has said that the world body will do everything possible to avoid military confrontation and bloodshed in Afghanistan. He was talking to newsmen at the airport in New Delhi this afternoon before his departure for Islamabad after a four-day visit to India. He said that the United Nations wants to promote the process of reconciliation in Afghanistan. Dr. Ghali said that he will discuss the Afghan problem with the Pakistani leaders. The UN chief said that his special envoy to Afghanistan, Mr. Benon Sevan, who arrived in New Delhi this morning, briefed him about the situation in Afghanistan. Dr. Ghali said that he is ready to go to Kabul if his visit helps to solve the crisis.

Security Tightened at Kabul Embassy

BK2604131492 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1230 GMT 26 Apr 92

[Text] The UN secretary general has appealed for an immediate cease-fire in Afghanistan amid reports of fighting between rival mojahedin factions in Kabul. Dr. Butrus Butrus Ghali in a statement released after his departure from Islamabad urged restraint and called upon all the warring groups to avoid further bloodshed. Reports of heavy fighting in which the rival groups are reportedly using tanks and heavy artillery have come in.

An agency report from Kabul says that troops of (?northern) mojahedin commander Ahmad Shah Mas'ud have wrested the presidential palace from the rival group headed by Mr. Golboddin Hekmatyar. There has been no confirmed report on the casualties so far. Agency reports, however, speak of heavy casualties on both sides. The Kabul airport complex is reported to be under the control of Jam'iyat-e Eslami forces and their allies.

A report from the Afghan capital says the Indian ambassador is personally supervising the measures to ensure the safety of Indians in Kabul. Security has been tightened around the Indian Embassy.

Fighting in Kabul; Situation Updated

BK2704035092 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 27 Apr 92

[Text] Reports from Kabul say that the mojahedin leader, Mr. Ahmad Shah Mas'ud, has consolidated his hold over the Afghan capital. The center of the city is reported to be under the control of Mr. Mas'ud's men. The rival mojahedin leader, Mr. Golboddin Hekmatyar, is in control of the Interior Ministry building and certain other parts. Heavy gunfire continued last night in eastern Kabul where the Defense Ministry is located. Fierce fighting involving tanks, artillery, and aircraft broke out yesterday. Troops of the former Afghan Government are believed to be fighting on both sides. Reports say there are heavy casualties. ANI [ASIA NEWS INTERNATIONAL] puts the death toll at over 75. Civilians are reported to be suffering most because of indiscriminate firing. Forces loyal to Mr. Hekmatyar are said to be regrouping themselves a few kilometers south of Kabul. The president designate of the Afghan mojahedin council, Mr. Sebghatollah Mojaddedi, has said that the council will assume power in Kabul today. Another report, however, said that the departure of Mr. Mojaddedi from Peshawar has been delayed because of the fighting in Kabul. The AIR [All India Radio] Islamabad correspondent reports that in view of the uncertain conditions prevailing at Kabul airport, there is a possibility that the council members may decide to travel to the Afghan capital by road under heavy security cover.

The UN secretary general, Dr. Butrus Ghali, has called for an immediate cease-fire in Afghanistan and urged restraint by all sides. The Afghan issue figured prominently during his talks with the Iranian president, Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani, in Tehran yesterday. The Iranian president has said that his country will not support any Afghan group.

Reports from Peshawar say that Mr. Hekmatyar's group is moving toward conciliation. They say that only parts of the formula for transfer of power have been rejected by Mr. Hekmatyar. There are indications that he is willing to discuss the rest of the proposals.

Swiss Authorities May 'Defreeze' Bofors Accounts

BK2404170692 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 24 Apr 92

[Text] Swiss authorities have told the Indian Government that they will have to defreeze the bank accounts in which the money relating to the Bofors gun deal is allegedly deposited if proceedings pending in the Delhi High Court are not decided quickly. This was stated by the CBI [Central Bureau of Intelligence] in an application before the Delhi High Court which is hearing a writ petition by Mr. Win Chadha, former Bofors agent in India, seeking quashing of the FIR [first information report] in the howitzer gun case. The CBI pleaded that in view of the information received from the Swiss authorities, an early listing of Mr. Chadha's petition should be made. Accepting the plead, the court fixed the (?27th) of next month for the disposal of the case.

Iran

Government Reacts to Afghanistan Developments

Security Council Meets 25 Apr

LD2504150592 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1430 GMT 25 Apr 92

[Text] In this evening's session of the Supreme National Security Council [SNSC], chaired by President Hashemi-Rafsanjani, the latest developments in Afghanistan and the sensitive situation faced by that Islamic country were examined. The following announcement was made:

The Islamic Republic of Iran [IRI] ascribes the victories gained by the mojahedin to the sacrifices and steadfastness of the oppressed and innocent Muslim Afghan nation and believes that cooperation and avoidance of unilateral actions toward the establishement of a government based on the nation's wishes to be vital at this highly dangerous juncture.

The SNSC also stressed: The Muslim Afghan people who, through their sacred jehad, managed to gain victory over one of the biggest arrogant powers, today must build a prosperous Afghanistan on the ruins left from the atrocities of the aggressors and heal the deep wounds of these self-sacrifcing people. Therefore, engaging in tribal clashes and unhealthy rivalries over power would only lead to grave consequences.

The IRI will continue to stand with the Muslim Afghan nation, just as it has throughout its 13-year struggle and holy war, and will use all its capabilities toward assisting the resistant and mojahed nation of Afghanistan.

Mojahedin Power Accession Hailed

LD2604163192 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1430 GMT 26 Apr 92

[Text] In the wake of the victory of the Muslim nation of Afghanistan, our country's Foreign Ministry has issued a statement greeting the coming to power of Muslim and revolutionary Afghan forces and announcing: As before, the Islamic Republic of Iran will stand by your heroic nation, and we are certain that, in these sensitive and decisive historical moments, the unity and vigilance of the Muslim nation of Afghanistan and the wisdom of Afghan mojahedin will thwart the conspiracies of enemies to create discord and divisions.

Adviser Arrives With Aid in Herat

LD2404195992 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 24 Apr 92

[Text] Our country's Foreign Ministry adviser arrived in Herat this morning aboard an Islamic Republic of Iran aircraft carrying aid from the Iranian Red Crescent for the Afghan people. He was welcomed by the city's people, ulema, and the mojahedin based in Herat.

The Foreign Ministry adviser, who attended Herat's Friday prayers sermons, made a speech in which he congratulated the people, ulema, and commanders and said: The Islamic Republic of Iran has constantly believed and continues to believe that Afghanistan must maintain its national unity and solidarity. Today we are happy to witness the successes of the people of this neighboring Islamic country in their goal of establishing an Islamic and indepedent government.

Our Foreign Ministry advisr also met with Herat's governor general, Isma'il Khan, this afternoon. The Foreign Ministry advisor congratulated him on the victory of the Afghan nation's Islamic revolution.

Isma'il Khan thanked the people and Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran for their efforts throughout the 14-year struggle of the Afghan people, and stressed the need for brotherly contact between the Muslim people of Iran and Afghanistan.

UN's Ghali Meets With Leaders on Afghan Events

Confers With Velayati

LD2604201892 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 26 Apr 92

[Text] UN Secretary General Butrus Ghali met and conferred this evening with our Foreign Minister Mr. Velayati. During the meeting, international developments, in particular the latest situation in Afghanistan, were discussed.

Thanking the Islamic Republic of Iran [IRI] for its efforts in bringing about peace in Afghanistan and our country's cooperation with the United Nations to that end, the UN secretary general said: The purpose of my visit to Iran, as a country which could play an important role in returning peace to Afghanistan, is to learn about the Iranian Government's viewpoints in light of the critical situation in Afghanistan.

He added: At present, Afghanistan is facing many dangers, and the latest reports from Kabul speak of encounters between various forces in that city which could increase the threat of Afghanistan's breakup. The continuation of the current disputes could lead to ethnic conflicts. We request that the IRI assist us by continuing its efforts toward returning peace and tranquility to Afghanistan.

Praising the IRI's mediation efforts in resolving the Karabakh issue, the UN secretary general said: UN policy is to utilize regional organizations and influential countries in resolving various crises around the world, and within that framework it supports the IRI's initiative and efforts toward resolving the Karabakh issue.

Concluding his remarks, Mr. Butrus Ghali thanked the constructive and mediatory role of the IRI, and welcomed Iran's initiatives toward establishing and maintaining regional and international peace.

Mr Velayati announced the IRI's readiness to cooperate with regard to regional and international issues, and outlined the critical situation in Afghanistan. He said: We have hitherto carried out many efforts aimed at safeguarding Afghanistan's territorial integrity and returning peace to that country, and have welcomed the UN efforts in that connection.

Regarding recent developments in Afghanistan, we believe that hasty decisions would exacerbate the situation, and Afghanistan's ethnic fabric—in view of the existence of various ethnic groups in that country—calls for diligence in making decisions. We support UN efforts aimed at finding a just political solution in Afghanistan, and hope that Afghanistan's special social and political situation will be comprehennsively taken into account with regard to any solution.

Talks With Hashemi-Rafsanjani

NC2704080792 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0330 GMT 27 Apr 92

[Text] In his talks with President Hashemi-Rafsanjani yesterday, UN Secretary General Butrus Ghali said he appreciates Iran's role in consolidating international peace and stability. He emphasized that regional organizations and important countries, including Iran, need to cooperate with the United Nations. My real task during this visit, Ghali said, is to exchange views regarding the current sensitive situation in Afghanistan and to help that country attain peace and tranquillity.

Ghali commended Iran's role in helping solve the 13-year Afghan crisis and in having accepted 2 million Afghan refugees. He said more international aid is needed to help these refugees return home and to help in the reconstruction of Afghanistan.

President Hashemi-Rafsanjani thanked Ghali for his remarks and lauded the UN's role in resolving regional and international disputes. Referring to current events in Afghanistan, the president said that internal strife needs to be prevented and that peace and security need to be established in this Islamic country. He noted that several different ethnic groups as regards language, religion, and nationality populate Afghanistan and emphasized that actions taken there need to be taken in such a way that no one group feels more powerful or oppressed than any other. Everyone should understand that if one group takes the lion's share of power, no support will be forthcoming from Iran, Pakistan, or any other country.

The president stated: An arbiter is needed in this important issue, and we believe that the United Nations is playing an important role. Hashemi-Rafsanjani called for the United Nations to become more active in resolving international issues, including the problems the Muslims of Bosnia-Hercegovina are having.

In another part of his speech, the president alluded to the current problems in the Islamic world, including the Palestinian issue, Lebanon, Somalia, and Libya. He emphasized the UN's decisive role in helping resolve these issues. Regarding Libya's recent problem, the president asked Ghali to use all his efforts to close this issue in a just manner and to prevent the United Nations from being used as a lever to pressure nations.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani also noted the pressure which the Muslim of Iraq, especially the Shiites and Kurds, are suffering. He also called for the threat against Iraqi national rights to end.

The president stressed the need to preserve unity and solidarity in Somalia and said he hopes the United Nations will be able to end the hostility among warring groups in that country. Hashemi-Rafsanjani stressed that Iran is willing to assist the United Nations in finding a just solution to the problems in Somalia.

Foreign Minister Velayati, UN Special Emissary on Afghanistan Benon Sevan, and other UN and Iranian officials were present at the meeting.

Refugees' Return Being Facilitated

LD2604192992 Tehran IRNA in English 1707 GMT 26 Apr 92

[Text] Tehran, April 26, IRNA—The governorates and Interior Ministry's offices for aliens and refugee affairs in the east of the country are providing facilities for Afghan refugees to return to their homeland.

Speaking to IRNA, the deputy for aliens and refugees affairs department of the Interior Ministry, 'Abd Reza Haji Arab, emphasized that Afghans in Iran are not forced to return to Afghanistan, but that the way is open for those who wish to return. The Afghan refugees willing to return home will be provided with special passes to cross the border, he said.

Haji Arab added that between 150 and 200 refugees depart Khorasan Province daily to join the Afghan

mojahedin via two ground borders of "Mirjaveh" and "Doqarun" between "Taybaad" region in Iran and "Herat" in Afghanistan.

He said the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) had not offered any aid yet to the Afghans in Iran and only talks had been held in this connection.

At least two million Afghans live in refugee camps or in Iran.

Dailies on 'Civil War' in Kabul

LD2704102292 Tehran IRNA in English 0837 GMT 27 Apr 92

[Text] Tehran, April 27, IRNA—Two morning dailies Monday [27 April] editorialized on the civil war in Kabul and warned the belligerent Mojhedin groups that such a war will only benefit enemies of the Afghan people.

The English daily TEHRAN TIMES wrote "the Muslim nation of Afghanistan, which fought for 13 years to achieve independence from the Soviet occupiers, will undoubtedly be the great loser in the civil war."

Blaming hardliner Golboddin Hekmatyar for the civil war, the paper said "the only hope that is left at these fateful hours is for the Pakistani President Ghulam Ishaq Khan and Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif to perform their historical role and restrain the warlike groups and prevent the unnecessary fratricide among the Mojahedin."

It also urged Hekmatyar to accept, before it is too late, that such a war will cause even more waste of human and financial resources and to realize that all his records of military campaign for the independence of his country will be overshadowed by such irresponsible moves.

Commenting on the same subject, the Persian daily JOMHURI ESLAMI wrote that the Afghan Mojahedin know better than anybody else that the Afghan people could tolerate 13 years of hardship and deprivation, but that they could never tolerate discord and conflict among Mojahedin groups.

The daily's editorial further said that those who liberated Afghanistan can and must reconstruct and bring prosperity to the country.

The freedom and independence achieved by the Afghan nation through the unity of Mojahedin groups, will only be preserved through continued unity, the editorial concluded.

Hezbollah Spokesman Denounces Hekmatyar

LD2604164692 Tehran IRNA in English 1604 GMT 26 Apr 92

[Text] Tehran, April 26, IRNA—A spokesman for the Hezbollah of Afghanistan said here Sunday [26 April] that the mojahedin of Afghanistan were bound to fight off Hekmatyar. He said the mojahedin do not corroborate Hekmatyar's policies and what he does, and added the Hezbollah and the mojahedin would "fight him to the end".

The spokesman for the Muslim group commented that Hekmatyar was "an operative of the United States in Afghanistan" and that he was backed up by Washington for playing a role in later developments in that country.

Meanwhile the Afghan mojahedin in Iran are to go to rooftops in Tehran and elsewhere throughout Iran at 21.00 hours local time (0430 hours GMT) to shout "Allah-o-akbar" (God is the greatest) in celebration of the victories of the Hezbollah in their homeland.

The nightly call as sung in chorus by children and the elderlies from behind windows and rooftops in most neighborhoods at blackouts in Tehran and elsewhere in Iran during the revolution days was the dominant note of the Islamic revolution.

Clashes With Shiites in South Intensifying

LD2404165392 Tehran IRNA in English 1600 GMT 24 Apr 92

[Text] Ahvaz, Khuzestan Prov., April 24, IRNA—Clashes between Iraqi forces and the people have intensified in the south of the country, according to reports reaching here.

Voice [as received] of several explosions caused by heavy arms used by Iraqi Army could be heard from Hoveyzeh border of Iran on Thursday night [23 April] and Friday morning.

Most of the clashes have occurred at al-Naseriyah in Dhi Qar Province, al-'Amarah in Maysan Province and al-Basrah, during which some of the residents of those regions and some people of 'Hur' marshlands in the south were killed by Iraqi forces, the reports said.

The Iraqi Army has dispatched several brigades and divisions to the Hur area to shatter the resistance of the Shiites in the south. This has caused growing tightening of the siege against Muslim combatants of the region.

Meanwhile, the Iraqi regime has reportedly poisoned the waters of Hur region which has taken tens of casualties so far.

SAIRI: 1,000 Army Troops Killed

LD2504191192 Tehran IRNA in English 1801 GMT 25 Apr 92

[Text] Tehran, April 23, IRNA—The Iraqi Army's recent three-day offensive against Shiite Arabs in the southern marshlands were fought back by defenders, said Yasin Musavi, a member of the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq (SAIRI) here today.

Musavi said Iraqi Arabs killed more than 1,000 armymen of the Baghdad Government and inflicted

heavy damage on them at three locations in the al-Basrah marshlands as a result of the assaults made by the army's third and fourth divisions, and the forces of 'Adnan Khayrullah'.

He added the Army attacks in southern Nasiriyah and al-'Amarah marshlands were repulsed and in a counter attack 300 of the Iraqi troops were killed and two helicopters downed.

SAIRI said the Arab people in southern Iraq resent the attitude of the international organisations' towards their plight including the discrimination in northern and southern Iraq. They called for equal attention towards the Arab south and the Kurdish north, and urged support for the oppressed people in southern Iraq.

Army Commander Said Killed

LD2604184292 Tehran IRNA in English 1551 GMT 26 Apr 92

[Text] Ahvaz (Khuzestan), April 26, IRNA—Several explosions resulting from the Baghdad forces' ongoing offensive against Shiite Arab populated southern Iraq, were heard last night in the Iranian border cities of Susangerd and Hoveyzeh. An informed source told IRNA that the blasts were most likely the bombardment by Iraqi warplanes of the residential areas of towns on the edge of the vast marshlands.

The Baghdad army has launched extensive air and ground attacks against the Iraqi Arabs who last year sought refuge in the marshlands to escape the genocide unleashed by the army following the Iraqi defeat in the Persian Gulf war.

In related news, an Iraqi Army commander, Colonel Hamdan, was killed during the assault on marshlands around al-Amara. The lightly armed Iraqi Arabs have fought back the heavy assaults of the Army, and according to a report released by the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution of Iraq (SAIRI) yesterday, over 1,000 Baghdad forces have been killed by the defenders.

In retaliation for its defeats, the Iraqi Army has shelled the densely civilian populated areas on the edge of the marshlands with heavy artillery, martyring several residents.

Meanwhile, reports said that the Iraqi Army is intending to cut down the reed marshes from three different points and build roads in order to penetrate the positions of the struggling Muslim forces in al-'Amarah, al-Nasiriyah and al-Basrah marshlands. The destruction or draining of the extensive marshlands which are home to a wide variety of birds and fishes could turn out to be an ecological disaster.

The Iraqi people have stepped up their attacks against the Ba'th Party over the past few days in several other places. A top security official, identified as Abdul-Jabbar No'aimi [name as received], was caught and killed by the Iraqi people on his way to Diyala from Baghdad last week.

Even in the capital, opposition is resurfacing against Saddam Husayn's rule. Iraqi Muslims recently distributed pamhlets in several parts of Baghdad, urging the people to rise up against the government.

Reports on Ukrainian Delegation Visit, Agreements

Hashemi-Rafsanjani, Kravchuk Hold Talks

LD2504181492 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 25 Apr 92

[Text] The first round of talks between the presidents of Iran and Ukraine were held in Tehran this evening. In the talks, Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani began by expressing pleasure about the independence of the Republic of Ukraine and about the fundamental changes in the former Soviet Union. He welcomed the growing trend of cooperation between Iran and Ukraine in various fields, especially economic ones, in view of the great potential existing in the two countries.

The president of the Islamic Republic stressed the existence of many areas of potential cooperation between the two countries and added: The Islamic Republic of Iran places great importance on the independence of newly independent countries, and we believe that these young republics must emerge successfully from this early stage of independence so that newly independent nations can follow the path they have chosen with strength. We hope that your visit and the ensuing talks will yield very good results for the two nations.

Then, Mr. Kravchuk, president of Ukraine, expressed gratitude for Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani's remarks and, referring to his visit to the resting place of his eminence Imam Khomeyni, said: My accompanying delegation and I were deeply moved by the spirituality of that sacred place. He conveyed the keen interest of the Republic of Ukraine to expand political, economic, and cultural cooperation with the Islamic Republic of Iran, adding: Fortunately, the groundwork now exists for the consolidation and expansion of ties in all areas.

Later in the talks, it was decided that two committees, political and economic, should be set up, including the two countries' foreign ministers, the Islamic Republic of Iran's oil minister, and the deputy prime minister of Ukraine, to examine possible areas for the expansion of cooperation in all their political, cultural, and economic dimensions and to present a report to the two presidents so that decisions could be made.

Joint Gas Transfer Project Noted

LD2504185792 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 25 Apr 92

[Text] Iran and Ukraine reached agreement on the transfer of 25 billion cubic meters of gas from Iran to Ukraine and the export of some of that gas to Europe.

Oil Minister Aqazadeh, in a meeting in Tehran with Ukrainian Deputy Prime Minister Masik and some other visiting officials from that country, said: The three countries of Iran, Ukraine, and the Republic of Azerbaijan are to set up a joint company to transfer Iranian gas to Ukraine and Europe, with 45 percent of the company shares belonging to the Republic of Azerbaijan. He added: This company will be responsible for constructing a 56-inch diameter pipeline, in the course of three years, for the purpose of transferring gas from Iran to Ukraine. To meet the financial costs of the project, international financial sources will be provided access.

'Further Cooperation' Needed

LD2604085492 Tehran IRNA in English 0623 GMT 26 Apr 92

[Text] Tehran, April 26, IRNA—President Akbar Hashemi- Rafsanjani and visiting Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk here Saturday night stressed the need for further cooperation between Iran and the newly-independent Ukrainian Republic in all domains.

President Hashemi-Rafsanjani speaking in a dinner banquet given in honour of his Ukrainian counterpart said that besides economic, scientific, technical and technological cooperation, the two countries can jointly work towards establishment of world peace, security and regional stability.

He said Tehran with due respect for decision of nations, principles of non-interference in other countries' affairs and independence and territorial integrity of the newly-independent former Soviet republics, has taken the necessary steps for further consolidation of relations with these countries. Iran is also interested in continuing peaceful relations with these republics, President Hashemi-Rafsanjani said.

The president added that Iran's mediatory efforts to settle the Karabakh dispute between Azerbaijan and Armenia is indicative of her commitment to the U.N. principles and aspirations which effectively helps stability, security and progress of the regional countries.

President Hashemi-Rafsanjani said political will of the two countries' presidents provides a solid foundation for continuation and further deepening of bilateral ties.

He also expressed satisfaction with the current upward trend of Tehran-Kiev relations.

In his address President Kravchuk expressed pleasure with his visit to Iran and said Ukraine is interested in establishing friendly relations with not only its Western neighbours but also with Eastern countries. He also predicted a bright prospect for the future of Tehran-Kiev relations.

President Kravchuk arrived here on an official visit yesterday.

Interest in Broader Ties Noted

LD2604160192 Tehran IRIB Television Second Program Network in English 1315 GMT 26 Apr 92

[Text] Iran's President Hashemi-Rafsanjani and the visiting President of Ukraine Mr. Leonid Kravchuk, in their meeting today, expressed mutual interest in broadening relations between the two countries. President Rafsanjani told Mr. Kravchuk that he was pleased with the expanding relations between the two countries. The president added: Iran looks forward to seeing the success of the newly-independent states of the former Soviet Union in their endeavors.

President Kravchuk said that his country is interested in broadening cooperation with Iran in political, economic, and cultural areas, and commented that, with respect to the upheavals in the former Soviet Union the situation is now ripe for broadening relations in all areas.

During their meeting, President Hashemi-Rafsanjani and Mr. Leonid Kravchuk agreed to form a political and an economic committee membered by the foreign ministers of Iran and Ukraine, the oil minister of Iran, and the deputy prime minister of Ukraine. The two committees are to explore ways and means of broadening bilateral relations in political, cultural, and economic areas and report their findings to the presidents of the two countries, next week.

Foreign Ministers Meet

LD2604164892 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1430 GMT 26 Apr 92

[Text] Ukrainian Foreign Minister Anatoliy Maximovich Zlenko today met and conferred with Foreign Minister Velayati. At this meeting the Ukrainian foreign minister pointed out that some comprehensive agreements have been reached between the two countries in a short space of time, and called for the full implementation of these agreements. He also referred to the role by Iran in the sensitive Middle East region and the mediation steps taken by our country with regard to the Karabakh issue. He asked the Islamic Republic to assist in finding Ukrainian soldiers who have been declared missing in action in Afghanistan.

Mr. Velayati also welcomed cooperation with the Republic of Unkraine in the Black sea and the Persian Gulf region, and considered that this cooperation has laid the basis for further cooperation.

During the meeting the two sides termed the cooperation in the economic sphere in the Caucasian basin as important, and stressed the need for increasing cooperation.

During the meeting the Ukrainian foreign minister presented the Ukrainian charge d'affaires in our country as the first representative of the Ukrainian Government in Iran.

Kravchuk Praises Visit, Departs

LD2604163892 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1430 GMT 26 Apr 92

[Excerpts] Dear viewers, as you heard in the headlines, Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk, who came to Tehran at the invitation of President Hashemi-Rafsanjani, left Tehran for Kiev this evening. He was seen off by Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani. [passage omitted]

In an interview with our correspondent before departure, the Ukrainian president described his visit to Iran as very useful and fruitful. He said: Everything which needed to be discussed was placed on the agenda, and after reaching agreement, the documents were signed. He added: During the talks, ways of possible cooperation, especially in economic areas, were discussed. The Ukrainian president announced the willingness of the Republic of Ukraine to carry out all agreements and said: The talks were held in a healthy atmosphere, with complete understanding and without any interference by either side in the internal affairs of the other. He also invited Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani to pay an official visit to Ukraine.

President Hashemi-Rafsanjani for his part told our correspondent: I am very pleased with the visit. Even though we did not have much time, we managed to make important decisions and to open new prospects for cooperation. The agreements will obviously be made public. Our country's president added: The talks progressed very well and very quickly from the start. He said: The two countries' newspapers must strive to introduce Iran and Ukraine to the people of the two countries, and the private sectors of the two countries must become active.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani Comments on Visit

LD2604203592 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 26 Apr 92

[Interview with President Hashemi-Rafsanjani by unidentified station correspondent, on 26 April in Tehran—recorded]

[Text] Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk, who visited our country at the invitation of President Hashemi-Rafsanjani, left Tehran this afternoon. He was seen off by the president. Our reporter spoke to Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani about the outcome of the talks held by the presidents of the two countries.

[Correspondent] Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani, please tell us about the outcome of the Ukranian president's visit to our country.

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] I am very pleased about the trip. The preliminary grounds were well prepared by previous exchanges of delegations and talks which we conducted. In spite of the short duration of this trip we were nevertheless able to make some important decisions together and open up new horizons for cooperation.

We shall naturally issue the understandings reached so that the people know about these. It is important for us now to continue taking further steps and to reap the appropriate benefit from these initial steps.

The interesting point is that both countries were very serious and decisive about starting cooperation. Our talks progressed very swiftly and well, and we arrived at some results. The task of you, the media, is to familiarize our people more with Ukraine, for example with travel and obtaining visas. The Ukrainian media will also do this so that our private sectors may become active on both sides.

[Correspondent] Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani, the repected Ukraine president referred to future relations between the two countries. How does your excellency, as president of the Islamic Republic of Iran, assess future relations between the two countries?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] The remarks that I have just made serve to clarify my views about the future. I think our resources and expertise complement each other, and I think that in the future we shall be among those countries which represent good models for cooperation.

Velayati Writes ICO Regarding Bosnia-Hercegovina

LD2604163392 Tehran IRNA in English 1434 GMT 26 Apr 92

[Text] Tehran, April 26, IRNA—Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati today called on the Organisation of the Islamic Conference (OIC), to take steps to ease the pressure exerted on Muslims of Bosnia-Hercegovina (B-H) by the Serbian forces.

In a message to the Secretary General of the OIC Hamed al-Ghabid, Velayati said that according to reports from the area since the last month, "the defenceless and unarmed people in different cities of B-H, are under attack by air and by land, of the Yugoslav Federal Army and the Serbian militias with casualties mounting."

He called on the Islamic states to take a serious political action to help the Muslim people of Bosnia-Hercegovina find a way out of the current massacre in the region.

The Iranian minister appealed to the OIC to rush humanitarian aid to B-H to help remedy the wounds of the plundered Muslims.

He suggested imposition of economic sanctions against the invading country by the Islamic states, and said the OIC should put the recognition of the independence of Bosnia-Hercegovina on its agenda.

Velayati expressed readiness of the Islamic Republic of Iran to cooperate with the OIC over the issue.

Iran has already recognized Bosnia-Hercegovina as an independent state.

ICO Urged To Organize Aid

LD2604163992 Tehran IRNA in English 1513 GMT 26 Apr 92

[Text] Tehran, April 26, IRNA—The Director General of Iran's Foreign Ministry for East-European Affairs Morteza Bank [name as received] here today called on the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC) to take a unified decision in protest against the genocide of Muslims in the Republic of Bosnia-Hercegovina.

Speaking to the ambassadors of Muslim states to Tehran, Bank outlined Iran's recommendations on the ways and means of rushing food aids to the Republic of Bosnia-Hercegovina.

He said the Islamic Republic of Iran had decided to send food to the Muslim republic but that the closure of the airport in Sarajevo to air traffic had made it impossible for Iran to do so.

Bank appealed to Islamic states to recognize the independence of Bosnia-Hercegovina and help the Muslim people of the republic find a way out of the present deadlock there.

He stressed the urgency for adopting a unified stand by the Muslim countries whereby to rescue Muslims in that country from the brutality of the Serbs who are being backed by the Yugoslav Federal Army.

Earlier today, Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati sent a message to OIC Secretary-General Hamed al-Ghabid, calling for action to ease the pressures on the Muslims of Bosnia-Hercegovina by the invading forces.

Maritime Conference With Caspian Sea States Opens

LD2604165292 Tehran IRNA in English 1541 GMT 26 Apr 92

[Text] Chaloos, Mazandaran Prov., April 26, IRNA—A five day conference on maritime cooperation between the Caspian Sea littoral states opened here Sunday [26 April], attended by delegations from the newly independent republics of Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan and Russia.

In his inaugural speech, Minister of Roads and Transportation Mohammad Sa'idi-kia said "we, the Caspian Sea littoral countries will be able to draw a better future for ourselves because of our long historical and cultural bonds and sharing water border."

Also speaking at the conference was Sa'idi-Kya's deputy and head of the ports and shipping organization Mohammad Madad who drew the attention of the audience to the three principles of speed, cost and safety in the transportation of goods across the Caspian Sea.

He said Iran's geographical location is such that it is able to transfer its exportable goods to international waters in the south, to Caspian Sea littoral states in the north, to the Middle East in the southwest and to Turkey and Europe in the West.

'Victory 3' Naval Maneuvers in Strait of Hormuz

LD2504183992 Tehran IRNA in English 1620 GMT 25 Apr 92

[Text] Bandar-e 'Abbas (Hormozgan), April 25, IRNA—Naval maneuvers code-named 'Victory-3' began on a grand scale at the first naval zone here today watched by commanders of the participant forces.

The 11-day manuveres are being carried out by the Khatam ol-'Anbia headquarters on either side of the Hormuz Strait in an area spread over 10,000 nautical square miles in the Persian Gulf and Gulf of Oman.

A total of 45 destroyers, missile-launchers, logistic ships, and frigates, and 150 speedboats of the army and the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) as well as anti-surface, anti-submarine and mine sweeper helicopters and air force fighter bombers are participating in the war game.

The maneuvers also include brigades of the Marines and special forces, units of the modern and electronic wars, ground-to-sea missiles, divers and IRGC special submarines.

Victory-3 is one of the biggest maneuvers of the Iranian naval forces, in which thousands of personnel from different forces are participating.

All Aboard Feared Dead in Air Crash Near Saveh

LD2604140192 Tehran IRNA in English 1304 GMT 26 Apr 92

[Text] Tehran, April 26, IRNA—An aircraft with a yet undeclared number of passengers and crew members crashed near Saveh, east of Tehran, shortly after midday Sunday. Her passengers and crew members are feared dead.

She was flying from the southern city of Mahshahr, Khuzestan Province, to Tehran as she crashed 15 kms east of Saveh, at 12:23 hours local time (07:53 GMT). Aviation sources in Tehran have confirmed the crash without eleboration.

A civil aviation source contacted by IRNA said the aircraft was a [Fokker] 'Friendship' belonging to Saha airline. He said [the] Friendship had been chartered by Iran's National Petrochemical Company. Rescue

workers and a team of aviation experts were immediately sent to the site of the crash.

Pakistan

Leader Activities, Meetings on Afghanistan Events

Sharif Greets Mojahedin Leaders in Peshawar

BK2504160692 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 25 Apr 92

[Excerpt] The prime minister, Mr. Mohammad Nawaz Sharif, attended a meeting of Afghan mojahedin leaders in Peshawar last night, which finalized the strategy for transfer of power in Afgahnistan. On this occasion, the prime minister said he has come to Peshawar to congratulate Afghan mojahedin personally on the historic decision in which Pakistan has played its full role. He said the unanimous decision of Afghan mojahedin for peaceful transfer of power in Afghanistan is a matter of pleasure for every Pakistani. He said the assistance of the UN secretary general's special envoy, the ICO [Islamic Conference Organization], and that of governments of Iran and Saudi Arabia was instrumental in reaching this decision. He expressed his assistance and support for solution of other problems confronting the Muslim ummah [community].

Professor Sebghatollah Mojaddedi of Afghan National Liberation Front expressed gratitude to Pakistani brethren and the prime minister who worked day and night for solution of the problem.

Professor Borhanoddin Rabbani of Jam'iyat-e Eslami expressed the hope that they will continue to have the cooperation of Pakistan in future as was extended by Islamabad in solution of the Afgahanistan problem.

And in Afghanistan itself, as the Kabul regime today lost control, mojahedin peacefully took over the capital, Kabul, occupying the presidential palace in the heart of the city, radio and television stations, most of the ministries, and other key installations. Agency messages from Kabul say mojahedin belonging to different groups took up positions today at the main gates of the complex which also houses the headquarters of the Watan Party. Reports say that only a few warning shots were fired in the air when mojahedin entered the city early this morning. [passage omitted]

Islamabad 'In Constant Touch'

BK2604150092 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 26 Apr 92

[Text] The prime minister, Mr. Mohammad Nawaz Sharif, has said the Government of Pakistan is in constant touch with mojahedin leaders inside Afghanistan and mojahedin leaders will be able to form their government shortly. Talking to newsmen at the Heavy Rebuild Factories in Taxila today, the prime minister said nobody has occupied Kabul. Mojahedin leaders will resolve their differences when the 50-member transitional council reaches Kabul to resume power. The prime minister said he believed the council would leave for Kabul within a day or two.

The council members are also in contact with Engineer Hekmatyar and Commander Ahmad Shah Mas'ud. He said the formula of transfer of power to mojahedin has the support of the United Nations and he had discussions with the UN secretary general on this matter. The prime minister expressed the hope that every matter will be settled and mojahedin will be able to form a consensus government.

Afghanistan Now 'Free'

BK2504150692 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 25 Apr 92

[Text] The prime minister, Mr. Mohammad Nawaz Sharif, has said resolution of the Afghanistan problem in a peaceful and orderly manner is a singular achievement of Pakistan's foreign policy. Talking to newsmen in Islamabad today, the prime minister said by the grace of Allah, Afghanistan is a free country now. Power would be transferred to the mojahedin within a day or two. It is a day of thanksgiving as the jehad-e-Afghanistan [Afghan holy war] has reached its culmination. The government and the people of Pakistan had provided all-out assistance to their Afghan brethren to fight out the Soviet invasion. The withdrawal of the former Soviet forces was the biggest victory of the people of Afghanistan. We must bow our head before almighty Allah over such an historic victory. The Afghan leadership in arriving at an agreement for the formation of a mojahedin council has proved its maturity and statesmanship. They did not provide any eventuality for intra-Afghan conflict. Those who were apprehending that Afghanistan will be dismembered or divided will be proved totally wrong.

Mr. Mohammad Nawaz Sharif said resolution of the Afghanistan issue will open up new vistas of development for Afghanistan and Pakistan. The setting up of a friendly government there will have positive effects on the security climate of Pakistan. The prime minister said Pakistan will extend all-out assistance in reconstruction of Afghanistan. We will chalk out an elaborate plan for return of Afghan refugees with dignity and honor. They were our most respected guests and it was our religious and moral duty to look after them. Pakistan, he said, has already provided wheat to the people of Afghanistan and will continue to do so in future. Replying to a question, Mr. Mohammad Nawaz Sharif expressed the hope that now the Kashmir issue will also be resolved.

President on Afghanistan, Kashmir

BK2604131892 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1100 GMT 26 Apr 92

[Text] The president, Mr. Ghulam Ishaq Khan, has appealed to the Afghan mojahedin at this historical juncture to take in hand the task of reconstruction and

rehabilitation of the economy according to their national aspirations along with the arrangements for the formation of a government in an atmosphere of peace and cohesion. He was addressing a durbar [assembly] at the installation of a colonel-in-chief ceremony of Punjab regiment at the regimental center in Mardan today.

Turning to Kashmir issue, the president said India has deprived the people of Jammu and Kashmir of their right of self determination. During the last two years, the unarmed Muslims of the state have stood up for achieving their right with a renewed determination. The president said Pakistan was a party to Kashmir issue and could not in any way set aside the responsibility of extending moral, political, and diplomatic support to the Kashmiris who have been made victims of oppression and repression. The president also said that Pakistan was (?trying hard) to make the defense of the country invincible and the region safe from the devastation of war for all times to come.

The prime minister, Mr. Mohammad Nawaz Sharif, was also present on the occasion. The prime minister formally inaugurated national shaheed cadet hostel at Punjab regimental center at Mardan this afternoon.

'Full Cooperation' With Council

BK2604145692 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 26 Apr 92

[Text] In Afghanistan, fighting is going on in the capital, Kabul, between forces obeying orders of the council of mojahedin and some elements trying to oppose these foreces from carrying out the orders of the council. The council, which has the support of the overwhelming majority of mojahedin organizations, was formed on 24 April. It is authorized to take over power in Afghanistan for two months and establish an Islamic government in the country.

A Foreign Office spokesman told newsmen in Islamabad today it appears most of Kabul City is under the control of forces loyal to the council. These forces are under the command of Commander Ahmad Shah Mas'ud, who is head of the security committee formed by the Afghan mojahedin council and nominated as defense minister. He hoped that fighting would end soon and decisions taken by the overwhelming majority of Afghans will prevail. He said the council was formed at Peshawar on Friday last with the agreement of overwhelming majority of mojahedin organizations.

One or two groups have some reservations which Afghan leaders are trying to overcome. Efforts are also underway to bring them into the fold in order to ensure smooth tranfer of power. In this connection, the spokesman added, negotiations are at the moment continuing between representatives of Hezb-e Wahdat and Afghan leaders.

Replying to a question about the departure of the council to Kabul, the spokesman said members of the council are consulting to take a decision regarding their departure. Pakistan would extend full cooperation to the council whenever it decided to depart. To another question, the Foreign Office spokesman said Kabul airport is under the control of the forces of Ahmad Shah Mas'ud. However, it cannot be said whether the airport is operative or not.

Future Policy Toward Afghanistan Outlined

BK2604165692 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1400 GMT 26 Apr 92

[Text] According to the latest information, fighting is going on in the Afghan capital and it appears that most of the city is under the control of forces obeying orders of the president of the mojahedin council formed under the decision reached in Peshawar on Friday. This was stated by a Foreign Office spokesman in Islamabad today. Briefing newsmen, he said some elements are trying to oppose forces which are carrying out the orders of the mojahedin council. He said Kabul airport is under the control of forces of commander Ahamd Shah Mas'ud, who is cooperating with the orders of the mojahedin council, which has named him as the defense minister and head of the security committee.

Answering a question, the spokesman expressed the hope that the conflict in Kabul would not widen and peace and normalcy would be restored to enable the mojahedin council to assume power there. The spokesman conceded that some forces are trying to prevent the council from taking control of Kabul. He expressed the hope on behalf of the Pakistan Government that decisions taken by an overwhelming majority of Afghan tanzimat [organizations] in Peshawar on Friday will prevail. Replying to a question, the spokesman said members of the mojahedin council are now in consultations among themselves to take a decision regarding their moving to Kabul. The Pakistan Government would extend all cooperation to them. He pointed out that the decision to form the mojahedin council had been arrived at among Afghan mojahedin tanzimat with the support of overwhelming majority of Afghan parties and groups.

The spokesman outlined three basic considerations which would guide Pakistan's policy following transfer of power to mojahedin. These are: repatriation and rehabilitation of Afghan refugees in Afghanistan; national reconciliation in that country, which would involve cease-fire and general amnesty; and lastly cooperation and offer of whatever help and assistance as needed together with the international communities for its reconstruction.

Sharif, UN's Ghali Confer on Afghanistan, Kashmir

BK2604094892 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 26 Apr 92

[Text] The UN secretary general called on Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif in Islamabad yesterday. The prime minister lauded the efforts of the world body toward the

settlement of the Afghanistan problem. Welcoming the accords reached by mojahedin in Peshawar, he expressed the hope that there will be peaceful transfer of power and Afghanistan's unity and the territorial integrity will be taken care of.

The prime minister drew the attention of Butrus Butrus Ghali to the atrocities perpetrated by the Indian occupation forces on the people of occupied Kashmir and urged him to take steps for a resolution of the issue according to the UN resolutions. Later, the prime minister hosted a dinner in honor of the UN chief.

Issue Statements

BK2604091792 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Overseas Service in English 0800 GMT 26 Apr 92

[Text] The prime minister, Mr. Mohammad Nawaz Sharif, has expressed the hope that things would be all right in Afghanistan and that there is no cause of worry. He was replying to newsmen's question on prevailing situation in Afghanistan during his visit to the Heavy Rebuild Factories at Taxila which he visited this morning. The prime minister said all mojahedin parties and groups would rule Afghanistan collectively as their jihad had already succeeded. He expressed the confidence that once the Transition Council reached Kabul and the mojahedin sat together there, they would be able to sort out their petty differences. The prime minister pointed out that it was a happy augury that all mojahedin parties and groups wanted to form government jointly. They, he said, would reach decisions with concensus and Pakistan has been having minute-to- minute contact with all mojahedin leaders, including Mr. Golboddin Hekmatyar. The prime minister told a questioner that the United Nations was fully supporting the plan formulated by various mojahedin parties and groups in Peshawar on Friday. He said the UN Secretary General during his meeting with him also expressed support to the plan.

Meanwhile, the UN secretary general, Dr. Butrus Ghali, has called on all the parties in Afghanistan to exercise restraint and avoid violence at this final stage of the solution of the problem. In a statement at Islamabad airport before his departure for Tehran at the end of three-day visit to Pakistan, he said now is the time for healing, tolerance, and forgiveness. He emphasized the need for an immediate cease-fire, a declaration of general amnesty for all respect for human rights, guarantee for personal safety and security.

Sharif, Saudi Prince Turki Discuss Afghanistan

BK2704035292 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 27 Apr 92

[Text] Prince Turki al-Faysal of Saudi Arabia called on Prime Minister Mohammad Nawaz Sharif in Islamabad yesterday evening. They exchanged views on the latest situation in Afghanistan.

UN's Ghali Urges Restraint in Afghanistan

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[Text] The secretary general of the United Nations, Mr. Butrus Butrus Ghali, has urged all Afghans to avoid further bloodshed and civil war. This would only prolong the sufferings of the Afghan people and add to further devastation of the country. In a statement issued on the eve of his departure for Tehran at the end of his visit to Pakistan, Mr. Butrus Butrus Ghali said the establishment of durable peace and maintenance of national unity were prerequisite for soliciting necessary financial assistance from the international community.

On Kashmir, the secretary general said he remains concerned about the situation in the valley, but expressed the hope that the ongoing dialogue would lead to a peaceful solution of the question. He expressed his readiness to assist in any way that might be helpful in resolving the issue in accordance with the UN Charter.

Dr. Butrus Butrus Ghali was seen off at the airport by the federal minister for education, Syed Fakhr Imam, and the Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Mr. Siddique Khan Kanjoo, besides senior officials of the Foreign Office and members of the diplomatic corps.